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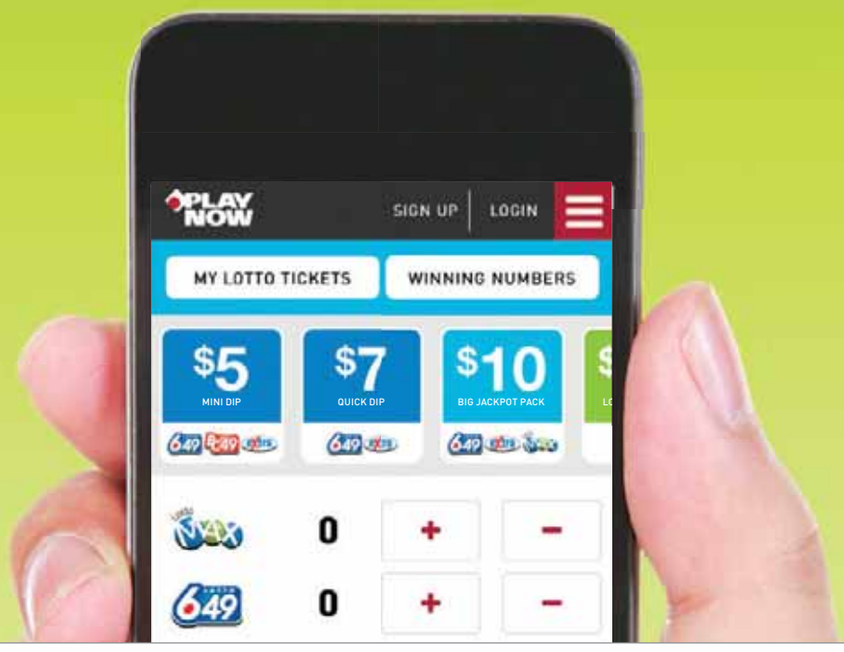

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Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MAY 15-18, 2015 High 20°C/Low 11°C Sunny

MAD MAX'S SECRET FEMINIST AGENDA
metroFILM

metroTALKS
Conversations with leaders

Gregor Robertson's URBAN AGENDA

ON HOUSING:

"If you want to hold a property empty, that's a business decision, and I believe it should cost more."

ON THE TRANSIT REFERENDUM:

"You get what you pay for, and we need to invest in reducing traffic and making our transportation system work better."

ON THE PROBLEM WITH THE FEDS:

"In Canada we've got a 150-year-old system that doesn't recognize cities in the constitution."

Coverage in metroNEWS

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Soldier objects to being pictured next to sex-misconduct story. **Canada**

Allow GSAs in all schools: NDP

GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES

MLA says that school groups need provincial protection

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

A rainbow flag being carried down Beach Avenue during the 2013 Gay Pride Parade in Vancouver. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

The province should ensure all schools, public and private, allow gay-straight alliances for students, according the NDP.

Vancouver-West End MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert called on the Ministry of Education on Thursday to join Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan in legislating students' right to establish the peer-led support groups when confronted with homophobic discrimination and abuse at school.

"The degree of homophobia and transphobia in schools and society is still too high," said Chandra Herbert. "Gay-straight alliances have been shown to save lives."

The majority of public school districts already support gay-straight alliances, but Chandra Herbert believes there's need for provincial protection encompassing all public and private schools.

In question period on Thursday, Education Minister Peter Fassbender said the government supports districts and independent schools that have implemented LGBTQ clubs on a local level, but B.C. already has an anti-bullying strategy that works.

> **The degree of homophobia and transphobia in schools and society is still too high. Gay-straight alliances have been shown to save lives.**
> MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert

"The heart of the ERASE strategy is very clear, and that is that we support the diversity of all students in the province of British Columbia," he said.

While 56 districts and more than 160 secondary schools have gay-straight alliances, University of British Columbia nursing professor Elizabeth Saewyc, who has extensively researched the issue, says a provincial mandate protecting them would be helpful.

Saewyc said she's interviewed students who have attempted to start a gay-straight alliance in public schools but have been denied by principals or couldn't find teachers willing to sponsor the group.

In one case, Saewyc said youth at a school were allowed to establish an alliance but were assigned to a room that was deliberately locked ahead of lunchtime meetings.

"Many school districts in B.C. do have gay and straight alliances already," said Saewyc. "But not every school will be guided by research evidence. Sometimes, it does take legislation to ensure that everyone has equal access to something that is helpful."

The evidence, she says, is clear. For B.C. schools where gay-straight alliances have been established for more than three years, the odds of gay boys being discriminated against because of their sexuality dropped 30 per cent, and suicide attempts among gay girls dropped 41 per cent, according to UBC research published last year by the International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies.

Jose Miguel Velasco of Santiago, Chile shows off the No. 13 written on his hand to mark his place in line outside Rogers Arena on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

It was a beautiful day for U2 fans

MUSIC

Metro spoke to a few from the band's legion

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Thousands of U2 fans lined up outside Vancouver's Rogers Arena on Thursday for the opening night of the band's iNNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE Tour.

But for a few dozen diehard followers with general admission tickets at the front of the line, the concert was several days in the making.

Coming from all over the world, these fans started camping out early Monday.

Metro met with a few members of this close-knit community of loyal fans before the concert to find out why they're willing to go to such great lengths to see their favourite band.

Brett McMurrain

Brett McMurrain has seen U2 perform 30 times, but he said the feeling he gets when the band takes to the stage still never ceases to amaze him.

"It's like a magic trick," he described it. "When the music starts, it still kind of makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck."

He said he is most looking forward to hearing the band perform California, a song from their latest album.

"The new album is really good," he said.

Betsy McIntyre

Betsy McIntyre, who started lining up early Tuesday morning, has been following U2 on tour since 1983. She stopped counting how many concerts she has seen but estimates it to be over 70.

"It's like my church," she said.

McIntyre said she enjoys meeting fans from around the world and re-connecting whenever the band goes on tour again.

"Every few years we hang out and we fight, we bicker, we all love the same things," she said. "It's just awesome."

Lya Wodraska

Lya Wodraska first became a fan of U2 in 1987 after the Joshua Tree album was released. Her love of the band hasn't wavered since, she said. Asked what it is about the music that speaks to her, Wodraska was nearly speechless.

"I don't even know," she said. "It's just this kind of magic thing."

Wodraska said she was most hoping to hear her favourite song Where the Streets Have No Name at Thursday's concert.

"It's probably one of the best live songs ever," she said.

Pat DaLugdug

Pat DaLugdug, who travelled from Arkansas, was the first person in line. He started camping outside Rogers Arena at about 5:30 a.m. Monday.

"My tent has seen more U2 shows than actual campgrounds or hiking," he said with a laugh. "But it's been great. It's a great band."

DaLugdug, who has been to 47 U2 concerts since he first became "hooked" in the seventh grade, said his favourite part of following the band on tour is meeting fans.

Jose Miguel Velasco

For Jose Miguel Velasco, camping out in Vancouver to see his favourite band was a special experience.

The trip marked the first time the diehard U2 fan, who has seen the band perform five times.

He arrived in Vancouver on Saturday and started lining up Monday. Velasco first became a fan at the age of 12 and was immediately hooked.

"It just happened to be the first band that I was really into," he said. "They're really down to earth."

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RCMP

Public's tips help capture convict

Police have tracked down an escaped convict six weeks after a Canada-wide warrant was issued for his arrest.

Forty-three-year-old Shawn Merrick had been at large since March 31 after breaking out of a minimum-security prison where he was serving time for second-degree murder and robbery.

Police say he tried holding up a bank in Surrey in April and is suspected in a string of robberies in the Langley area.

The Mounties say tips from the public were instrumental in finding and capturing Merrick.

He has been returned to prison to serve out the remainder of his sentence.

Merrick faces six new robbery charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Terror plot trial resumes

CRIME

Couple found not guilty on one of four charges

A British Columbia couple accused of plotting to blow up the provincial legislature has been found not guilty of one among four charges even before a trial concludes.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Catherine Bruce told jurors that due to legal reasons they will not need to make a decision on count three of the indictment — knowingly facilitating a terrorist activity.

"You will not be required to come to a decision about the guilt or innocence of the accused on this count in the indictment," Bruce said Thursday, a week after jurors were last in court for the trial that began in February.

"You must accept as matter of law that the accused cannot be convicted of this charge and you must not speculate as to why this has occurred."

John Nuttall and Amanda Korody pleaded not guilty to a total of four charges for allegedly plotting to blow up the legislature on Canada Day in 2013. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Nuttall and Amanda Korody pleaded not guilty to a total of four charges. The remaining charges are conspiring to commit murder, conspiring to place explosives on behalf of a terrorist group and possessing explosives on behalf of a terrorist group.

They are accused of planting three homemade pressure-cooker bombs on the grounds of the legislature on Canada Day in 2013.

Outside court, Crown lawyer Peter Eccles said each charge stands on its own and the ruling makes the jury's job a little easier.

"It's not anything I'd be upset about, it's a matter of law," he said. "And it makes sense."

After the judge's ruling, defence lawyer Marilyn Sandford opened her case by presenting several audio and video clips not included during weeks of evidence displayed by the Crown.

The jury spent several weeks watching an extensive series of videos captured by undercover RCMP officers involved in an elaborate police sting that ultimately led to the charges.

Most of the recordings showed secretly captured conversations between the couple when they were alone, but in one excerpt that ran just over an hour they are seen discussing their plans with one of the officers.

Neither Nuttall nor Korody testified, and their lawyer did not call any witnesses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TRINITY WESTERN

Feds take a strong stand on law school

The decision by the Law Society of Upper Canada to refuse accreditation to graduates from an evangelical Christian law school was "unnecessary" and "not reasonable," argues the federal government.

Trinity Western University, which plans to open its law school next year in British Columbia, was denied accreditation last year in a 28-21 vote by the regulatory body. It then applied to Ontario's Divisional Court for a judicial review of that decision. The court begins hearing arguments June 1.

The university has faced controversy over its "community covenant" — a document students must sign promising to abstain from "sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman."

The Attorney General of Canada is one among many interveners in the court case who recently filed factums stating their positions on the Law Society's decision. The government's involvement at this stage of the case is described as "perplexing" by lawyers for two of the other interveners.

"I've never seen them intervene at this level before in this type of case," said Paul Jonathan Saguil. "Regulation of law schools and the legal profession is under provincial jurisdiction, so it's kind of perplexing that the federal government would wade in on this issue."

Saguil represents Out On Bay Street, which connects LGBTQ law and business students with working professionals, and OUTlaws, a collection of LGBTQ law school student associations. The two groups want the Divisional Court to dismiss Trinity Western's application.

"It's hard to see really what is behind their decision to intervene here," said Saguil's colleague on the file, Frances Mahon.

"For me, as a gay person and as a lawyer working on this case, the decision of the Law Society is incredibly important. It suggests to me they chose to be on the right side of history."

A spokesman for the federal justice department said the government became involved because the case deals with important Charter of Rights and Freedoms issues and declined to comment further.

The Law Society wants Trinity Western's application dismissed. Society spokeswoman Susan Tonkin deferred to the documents filed with the court when asked for comment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Supreme Court won't hear appeal in B.C. ferry sinking

QUEEN OF THE NORTH

Karl Lilgert denied hearing, sentence still four years

The Supreme Court of Canada has abruptly ended the legal campaign of a man who was at the helm of a British Columbia ferry that slammed into an island and sank.

The court announced Thursday that it would not hear the appeal of Karl Lilgert's convictions on two counts of criminal negligence causing death.

Lilgert was convicted by a jury in 2013 and sentenced to four years for the deaths of Gerald Foisy and Shirley Rosette, who disappeared when the ship went down in March 2006.

He had been free while appealing the case and turned himself in last December when the B.C. Appeal Court unanimously rejected his case.

Lilgert's lawyer, Glen Orris, said he was disappointed that the high court wouldn't hear the case.

"I was hoping to argue the matter in the Supreme Court of Canada, but they've decided otherwise," he said on the phone from Kamloops, B.C.

At Lilgert's B.C. Supreme Court trial, the jury believed the Crown's explanation that he missed a scheduled turn and rammed the ferry into a remote island because he was distracted by his ex-lover, who was on the bridge with him for the first time since they'd ended their relationship.

The Queen of the North was on a routine overnight trip down the Inside Passage with 101 passengers aboard when it hit Gil Island and sank.

Lilgert told the trial that he delayed turning and then made course changes in response to the circumstances at the time, including weather and the presence of another boat.

He said he was shocked to encounter the island. Both Lilgert and his former lover, quartermaster Karen Briker, denied their affair had anything to do with the sinking.

The families of Rosette and Foisy settled their lawsuits against BC Ferries in 2009.

Orris said Lilgert has publicly apologized to the family members on several occasions and has always taken responsibility for what happened.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

REACTION

Alfred Jack, Rosette's brother-in-law, said he's pleased to see that Lilgert will finally be serving his sentence nine years after the sinking, though he never thought the sentence was adequate.

He said Rosette's two boys, who were 12 and 16 when their mother died, were devastated by the loss, especially because their father had passed away the year before.

NATURE SPRING IS IN FULL FORM IN VANCOUVER A group of goslings walk on the grass at False Creek on Thursday in Vancouver. From sea to sky, there's something for everyone to do in Vancouver this weekend. The city's outdoor pools (except for Maple Grove) and beaches will open this Victoria Day long weekend, with lifeguards and park rangers on duty as of Saturday. The pools will remain open until Labour Day in September. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

TRANSIT

Compass cards ready for next step

TransLink's long-delayed Compass electronic fare card is finally ready to be tested by paying customers.

The transit authority announced Thursday that West Coast Express riders will be able to use Compass cards beginning June 8, marking the first time customers will be able to pay for their fares using the new system.

The next phase of the rollout will see 7,500 cards hand-delivered to riders at West Coast Express stations by customer outreach teams, which will also be present at stations throughout the trial to help users through any growing pains.

Originally tested in 2013 and slated to launch in January 2014, TransLink has instead delayed and gradually introduced its $194-million system in phases due to technical difficulties.

By September, TransLink says approximately 220,000 people will be using Compass cards.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

IN BRIEF

Ex-Saanich mayor made land commission chairman

A former mayor of Saanich has taken over the reins at the province's Agricultural Land Commission.

Frank Leonard says he looks forward to his new role as the commission's chairman and that he is committed to promoting food security in B.C.

Leonard was the longtime mayor of Saanich, where nearly 20 per cent of the land base is located within the ALR.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BLAZE

Raging wildfire in northern B.C. spreads

Crews battling a rapidly spreading wildfire in northern British Columbia were starting to make some progress when the blaze flared up again early Thursday, fire officials said.

The fire is estimated to engulf an estimated 130 square kilometres of land and forest near Norman Lake, about 50 kilometres southwest of Prince George.

The provincial government's Wildfire Management Branch said the blaze, first discovered Saturday, keeps spreading because of dry, warm and windy conditions.

Crews have been working around the clock to battle the blaze using six helicopters, four air tankers and 10 pieces of heavy equipment.

Dozens of people have been forced out of their homes because of the fire, and B.C. Parks has closed its Dahl Lake and Bobtail Mountain provincial parks until further notice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ABORIGINAL YOUTH

Report on dead teen paints grim picture

She was found unconscious on sidewalks and transit buses. A police officer warned she may be hurt or killed while drunk.

These are just a few of the horrific incidents documented by a report examining the life and death of Paige, a 19-year-old legally blind aboriginal girl who overdosed in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Social workers who were supposed to protect her did nothing to help, revealing a broken system that casually disregards the needs of aboriginal children, says British Columbia's representative for children and youth.

"Paige's files are rife with examples of situations in which workers seemed to throw up their hands and declare: 'What can we do?' rather than doing everything that was in their power," Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond said in the report.

"If a parent in B.C. had treated their child the way the system treated Paige, we may be having a debate over criminal responsibility."

Paige, whose last name is not revealed in the report, died in a washroom in a city park in April 2013.

Turpel-Lafond estimates there are about 100 to 150 aboriginal youth similar to Paige in the Downtown Eastside.

Children and Family Development Minister Stephanie Cadieux said she was horrified by the report and vowed to create a "rapid-response team model" to intervene early in the lives of youth in the neighbourhood.

Mayor Gregor Robertson called Paige's tragic death a "damning indictment" of the current system and promised to continue to fight for the province to invest more in social housing and drug treatment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A Sea King helicopter conducts a fly past after the Canadian flag was lowered on HMCS Protecteur at CFB Esquimalt, Thursday. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fire marks end for ship

HMCS PROTECTEUR

Crew says fond farewell to naval ship that served 46 years

Sailors gave three loud cheers and a brass band belted out Auld Lang Syne to honour a Canadian navy supply ship during a farewell ceremony Thursday.

The event marked almost 46 years of military service for HMCS Protecteur, including the Cold War, Gulf War and hurricane relief.

Officers and sailors spoke emotionally about an engine-room fire off the Hawaiian Islands last February that crippled the ship and prompted its premature retirement.

Protecteur was alone in the middle of the ocean, without power, while the crew fought back a blaze that sent thick smoke billowing from the ship's stacks.

The Commander of Canada's Pacific Naval Fleet, Commodore Bob Auchterlonie, said the current ship's company has endured a trying 18 months, but demonstrated the skills and success that has become a trademark of all Protecteur sailors.

More than 10,000 Canadians served on board the Protecteur as it covered 800,000 nautical miles during its many voyages.

More than 100 former Protecteur crew members and the current crew participated in a traditional paying-off naval ceremony that marks the end of a ship's commission.

The ship's ensign and the captain's pennant are hauled down, the crew departs for the final time and the ship is no longer referred to as Her Majesty's Canadian Ship. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Retired teacher accused in child pornography trial

A retired special-education teacher accused of stashing child pornography beneath a vent in his Kamloops condo has admitted in court to watching adult pornography, saying it's something that all men do.

Jerry Waselenkoff, 66, is on trial in B.C. Supreme Court in Kamloops on a single count of possession of child pornography.

Court has heard the downstairs neighbour uncovered binders of CDs containing child pornography in his ceiling while doing renovations in 2012.

Waselenkoff said he accidentally stumbled upon child pornography a few times while clicking on different links. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PM209	2015 MINI Cooper	Volcanic Orange	3,019	$28,795	**$28,295**
PM217	2015 MINI Cooper	White Silver	3,059	$29,135	**$28,635**
PM185	2015 MINI Cooper	Blazing Red	3,029	$29,385	**$28,885**
OM247	2014 MINI Cooper Convertible	White Silver	3,090	$32,826	**$31,826**
PM171	2015 MINI Cooper Convertible	Pepper White	6,262	$35,569	**$34,769**

MINI COUNTRYMAN

STOCK #	DEMO MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE (KM)†	MSRP*	SALE PRICE*
PM157	2014 MINI Countryman S	Blazing Red	4,630	$37,090	**$33,090**
PM155	2014 MINI Countryman S	Blazing Red	3,017	$39,680	**$37,180**
PM249	2015 MINI Countryman S	Midnight Grey	3,013	$38,795	**$38,295**
PM200	2015 MINI Countryman S	Jungle Green	3,700	$38,795	**$38,295**

MINI PACEMAN

STOCK #	DEMO MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE (KM)†	MSRP*	SALE PRICE*
OM254	2014 MINI Paceman	Light White	11,030	$36,485	**$31,985**
PM107	2014 MINI Paceman S	Light White	12,183	$38,540	**$34,040**
OM252	2014 MINI Paceman S	Chili Red	7,772	$45,760	**$41,260**
OM255	2014 MINI Paceman JCW	Chili Red	8,298	$51,955	**$45,862**

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PM243A	2011 MINI Cooper S	Pepper White	71,413	$21,885	**$20,885**
QMU003	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Pepper White	60,405	$19,888	**$18,888**
PM289A	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Chili Red	12,060	$22,685	**$21,485**
PMU134	2012 MINI Clubman S	White Silver	7,495	$34,550	**$33,050**
PMU133	2014 MINI Clubman S	White Silver	8,721	$37,395	**$34,313**
QMU007	2012 MINI Countryman	Light White	39,502	$23,885	**$22,885**
QMU021	2012 MINI Countryman S	Light White	40,124	$27,685	**$25,985**
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Media mogul leads PQ leadership race

POLITICS

Quebecor's majority shareholder is front-runner

The Parti Quebecois could begin its Pierre Karl Peladeau-led era this Friday.

Polls suggest the controlling shareholder of Quebecor Inc., one of the biggest and most influential media companies in Canada, is the front-runner in the race to succeed Pauline Marois as permanent PQ leader.

Peladeau's opponents are former cabinet ministers Alexandre Cloutier and Martine Ouellet.

The first round of voting began Wednesday and ends at 5 p.m. eastern time Friday. If none of the three gets 50 per cent, a second round of voting with the top two finishers will take place May 20 to 22.

Much of the campaign has focused on Peladeau's refusal to sell his shares in Quebecor. He has promised to put the shares in a blind trust, a position critics say is inadequate.

Although a political neophyte — he was elected in April 2014 — Peladeau's influence in Quebec is undeniable.

Quebecor owns some of the biggest media properties in the province such as newspapers, a TV network, book publishers and music distributors. His company is also a major player in cable, Internet and cellphone services.

Peladeau's critics and political opponents say he is divisive, anti-union and too short-tempered to handle the frustrations and nuances of political life.

But his passionate, public and fervent cries for Quebec sovereignty, coupled with his high profile, have made him a seemingly irresistible candidate for party brass who long desperately to be pioneers of an independent country. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pierre Karl Peladeau
GRAHAM HUGHES/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MEDICAL RESEARCH

Stem cell treatment help for paraplegics

A small number of paraplegics are now able to feel some sensation after having neural stem cells transplanted into their damaged spinal cords as part of a study, raising hope that the therapy may help restore movement in some paralyzed patients.

Researchers in Zurich, Toronto and Calgary used the experimental treatment in 12 people with injuries to the thoracic region of their spinal cords. The thoracic segments of the spine run roughly in line with the armpits to an area just below the waist.

Within months of having the injections of 20 million human neural stem cells, more than half the patients reported they had areas of restored sensation when tested with light touch, pin pricks or heat.

While the transplants did not bring back the ability for patients to move their legs or control other muscles below the site of their injury, seven of the 12 had "significant improvement in sensation," said Dr. Michael Fehlings, Krembil chair in Neural Repair and Regeneration at the University Health Network, who led the Toronto arm of the study.

> **We have now legitimately entered into the era of regenerative neuroscience.**
> Dr. Michael Fehlings

That recovery of feeling means the stem cells may have partially repaired damage to the spinal cord, suggested Fehlings.

"The implications of what we're doing now is really quite profound because we have now legitimately entered into the era of regenerative neuroscience," he said.

"And this isn't occurring in shady overseas clinics that are selling things to vulnerable people. This is occurring under the auspices of the most rigorous federal agencies in the world. So the science is real and I feel very hopeful for the future."

Stem cells are the body's building blocks, giving rise to different kinds of cell types. Neural stem cells spawn various types of central nervous system cells, such as those found in the brain and spinal cord. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

RCMP labour violations in Moncton shooting

Nearly a year after three RCMP officers were murdered in Moncton by a lone gunman, the police force has been charged with four labour code violations in relation to the incident.

The Employment and Social Development Canada investigation alleges there were violations of the code relating to the force's equipment, training and supervision in the June 4 case that terrorized the New Brunswick city.

Justin Bourque was sentenced to life in prison with no eligibility for parole for 75 years in October after pleading guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

An RCMP review of the shootings said officers responding to the shootings faced a litany of problems that included communicating accurate information, accessing high-powered weaponry and securing protective equipment.

Commissioner Bob Paulson says the police force is considering the substance of the labour code charges and reviewing what actions it will take. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Soldier says it's not so simple

Cpl. Ashley Turner is a female soldier who has served in the armed forces for 12 years and completed two tours in Afghanistan. She was deployed on Operation Podium, the army's support for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Turner wrote to Metro News after seeing her photo with an article about sexual misconduct in the Canadian military. Her letter follows.

Canada metro NEWS

Military's problem of sexualized culture

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Judge's report highlights misogynstic behaviour

Being called an ice princess, or a slut, or told that they only joined the army to find a man: Those are just some modest examples of the misogynistic, highly sexualized culture that pervades the Canadian military and confronts its female members every day, a long-awaited sexual misconduct review said Thursday.

Eradicating that culture will

Cpl. Ashley Turner's photograph was published in Metro and other newspapers on May 1 alongside a story about the recent release of a scathing report into military sexual misconduct. She later wrote us to make clear that she should not be seen as "an example of a female soldier who has had first-hand experience of the issues discussed in the report." METRO

I was very surprised to see my photograph in the May 1 edition of the Metro, and even more surprised to see the article that it was used to illustrate — an article entitled "Military Plagued by Sexualized Culture," which described the recent report by former Supreme Court justice Marie Deschamps on the misogyny and sexual harassment that is allegedly commonplace in the Canadian Forces.

While I am flattered that my picture was chosen to represent female soldiers in general, I also feel that the immediate impression a reader would get is that it was included to provide an example of a female soldier who has had first-hand experience of the issues discussed in the report. Therefore, I wish to clarify that this is not the case, and that I am not in any way associated with the study in question.

In fact, had I been one of the 700 personnel who were selected to participate in this study, I would have confessed that the time I have spent in the Canadian military — all 12 years of it — has been a very positive experience, and almost entirely free of the issues described in the article.

Perhaps I have been unusually lucky to have worked with excellent male colleagues for the entirety of my career, or perhaps I am one of the "desensitized" women the article mentions. I do admit that crude jokes and swear words are spoken regularly in the military, yet I have never felt offended by them. In my experience, jokes that degrade women are not made any more often than jokes that degrade other groups of people — and, in fact, though the article mentions "references to female genitalia" as a particularly offensive example of such a joke, I can assure you that references to male genitalia are far, far more common. What I find much more offensive and misogynistic than any joke I have heard in the military is the notion that females, but not males, are somehow ill-equipped to handle this manner of conversing. The joking I have experienced has almost always been good-natured, and when the time has come to get the job done I have never found myself to be treated any less fairly than anyone else, or to be any less accepted by my peers as a result of my gender.

Of course, for both males and females, personal experience in the Canadian Forces will vary, and I am sure that, at times, legitimate harassment does occur. My intent is not to belittle the victims of this harassment, or to suggest that it should not be taken seriously. I simply wish to state that my experience in the Canadian Forces has been very different than the experiences of the female soldiers described in the article, and that the use of my photograph was therefore probably not the most accurate way to illustrate the concept discussed.

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ON THE FEDS

METRO: Council got into a little bit of hot water with the federal government over your decision to look at regulating medical marijuana dispensaries in the city. How does that impact your ability to lobby other things with the federal government?

GR: We take positions to represent Vancouver's best interests. That's not political; that's about representing our city. So when it's contrary to the federal or the provincial government's actions, that's just the reality.... It's not always easy, whether it's closure of the Kits Coast Guard station and the challenges the Coast Guard had managing this oil spill and the connection to the Kinder Morgan pipeline proposal — that's a very difficult and contentious basket of issues. I've been very disappointed with the federal government on those issues. But we still work with them on infrastructure investment. They've promised funding on transit investment if we can raise the local component. There's always opportunities to partner. We're respectful but making sure we represent our city. That's the core.

METRO: Do you find if you push back on something it would impact something else you're trying to do? Are there ramifications to saying, "No, this is what we're doing," when you're advocating for housing?

GR: It's tough to say. I think cities across Canada have been shortchanged by provincial government and federal government. We've had a tough time funding the necessary infrastructure investments. We need more support from the provinces and the feds. That's the reality for decades now. They've vacated many of their housing obligations, they conflict on health-care policy at times, when it's Insite, as an example, drug policy issues, whether it's Insite or marijuana dispensaries.... In Canada we've got a 150-year-old system that doesn't recognize cities in the constitution. Provincial and federal governments are not coming to the table with enough resources or shifting the law-making powers to cities. We're behind the eight ball on that front.

METROTALKS GREGOR ROBERTSON

As part of Metro's editorial panel with key influencers, the **mayor of Vancouver** visits our office

MAYOR TAKES AIM AT EMPTY HOUSES

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson is getting a crash course in Vancouver's housing market as he searches for a new home in a city struggling to keep a lid on escalating real-estate prices.

"I've got my work cut out for me house hunting," said Robertson, who sees no end in sight to the sellers' market in a city where 52 per cent of residents rent and vacancy rates have plummeted to 0.5 per cent.

But the mayor blames empty homes and real-estate speculation — not foreign ownership — for creating problems in Vancouver's housing market.

The lack of affordable housing, whether it's for people who are homeless or young professionals trying to stay in the city, is the top issue Vancouver faces in the upcoming year, Robertson said in a wide-ranging interview at Metro's office with the editorial team on Thursday.

And yes, the mayor arrived by bike. (He cycles in his suit, jacket off, tie loosened and pants tucked into his socks.)

"The city's primary concern is around empty homes and market speculation skewing the prices. Foreign ownership is a separate issue; that's not something that should be a big factor here," Robertson said, adding he is concerned foreign ownership is a trigger for other issues.

Foreign ownership made headlines this week, as Premier Christy Clark dismissed the idea of placing an additional tax on foreign buyers. Yet an online petition calling for restrictions on foreign ownership in B.C. reached more than 21,000 signatures.

"We've welcomed immigrants as long as this city has been here," Robertson said. "It's a very inclusive and harmonious city of many cultures, and we want to continue ensuring that's our strength and focusing on what the real problem is, which is vacancy and ensuring we get best use of the space we have."

The city's housing agency is trying to compile data on how many homes are vacant and how long they've been empty for, although Robertson said it would be ideal if the province would collect the data and show more leadership on the housing file.

If the city can create disincentives for people to leave their homes empty and incentives for them to rent their houses and condos, Robertson believes that would help boost vacancy rates and affordability by increasing the housing stock.

"If there's no incentive to rent your empty place, people can sit on it as a business holding. That's keeping people out of our city or preventing locals from staying, which just doesn't make sense," Robertson said. "If you want to hold a property empty, that's a business decision and I believe it should cost more."

Robertson sees empty homes changing the fabric of neighbourhoods across the city with fewer people around and fewer children in schools.

"Whether it's high-end homes on the west side or condos downtown, it's good for the city to use that space well and provide opportunities for people to live," Robertson said.

London, New York, Paris, Toronto and Sydney are also facing this challenge of global investors parking money, Robertson added.

"We've become havens for safe real-estate investment," he said, adding buyers come from everywhere, but most are from the U.S. and Asia.

"Here in Vancouver the core issue is empty homes when there's no vacancy, and people are having trouble finding a place to live."

As for Robertson, he's looking around the city and said he doesn't have a favourite hood.

"Vancouver has so many great neighbourhoods with different qualities.... They're all my favourite," he said with a laugh.

> **"It's a very inclusive and harmonious city of many cultures, and we want to continue ensuring that's our strength.** Mayor Gregor Robertson

3 things on the mayor's mind

The transit vote ...

There's a duality to Robertson's thoughts on the region's transit plebiscite with two weeks remaining.

On one hand, he feels Metro Vancouver mayors have espoused the benefits of their proposed 10-year, $7.5 billion transit plan enough.

But he's not sure if the message has resonated with car-reliant, suburban commuters who stand to gain the most.

He says support for a "Yes" vote within his own city is strong, but resents that such a crucial decision — the future of the region's transportation system — hinges on how voters feel about swallowing a new 0.5 per cent sales tax.

"It's so hard to predict, the polling is literally all over the map," said Robertson. "Mayors across the region have been really concerned about having this referendum and the process since Day 1. It's a frustration we can't solve. It's the B.C. government's referendum and we're hopeful people make the right choice, regardless of the process being clunky."

According to the latest Elections BC count, fewer than 40 per cent of voters have cast ballots since voting began March 16.

Robertson remains "optimistic" residents understand the need for improved transit infrastructure, but worries the low engagement is indicative of a flawed process.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Bike sharing ...

Mayor Robertson says he is frustrated the city still doesn't have a public bike share program.

"It's been frustrating that it's taken this long," a visibly deflated Robertson said in a sit-down interview at Metro's office Thursday. "I've been committed to getting a public bike share system since I became mayor."

Although the city promised there would be bikes for rent in 2015, Robertson acknowledged the proposed program, originally planned to launch in 2013, has faced some kinks in the chain.

Montreal-based Bixi, the company selected to provide the bicycles, stations, helmet system, call centre and software for Vancouver's $6-million system, filed for bankruptcy in January 2014.

Still, Robertson said he is hopeful a public bike share system will finally become reality.

He said the city is now looking at the "next generation of bike share" systems that use technology similar to car-sharing programs, where users can park and find a bike anywhere in the city using a smartphone.

"We may benefit with the newer technology," he said. "Bikes don't all have to be at those docking stations, which are big and expensive, clunky infrastructure."

Robertson said he is also hopeful a public bike share program will be successful enough that it won't rely on government subsidies.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

His personal life ...

Robertson said his girlfriend, pop star Wanting Qu, hasn't been able to reach her mother for almost eight months after Chinese authorities detained her on corruption allegations.

The mayor answered questions about Qu and the allegations against her mother — Chinese media reported she was arrested in Harbin last fall on allegations of selling state properties under market value for a profit — at the end of an interview at Metro's office on Thursday.

Qu Zhang Mingjie has had no access to a lawyer and no charges laid against her, Robertson said when asked for an update on the case.

"The family hasn't been able to see her; she's basically disappeared for almost eight months with no information," Robertson said. "There's been no contact for the family or lawyers. It's a difficult situation, hopefully there's resolution soon."

Robertson also discussed what it's like to have a relationship in the public eye.

"It's frustrating. And obviously Wanting and I are both public figures, so it's something we just have to deal with right now," Robertson said.

"I'm just trying to run the city and do good work. My personal life is not relevant to being mayor."

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

On the NDP getting elected in Alberta:

With the plummeting oil prices, I think people in Alberta realized they needed a change in approach. I worry federally that our federal government has put a lot of eggs in the fossil-fuel basket.

On plans to run for mayor again:

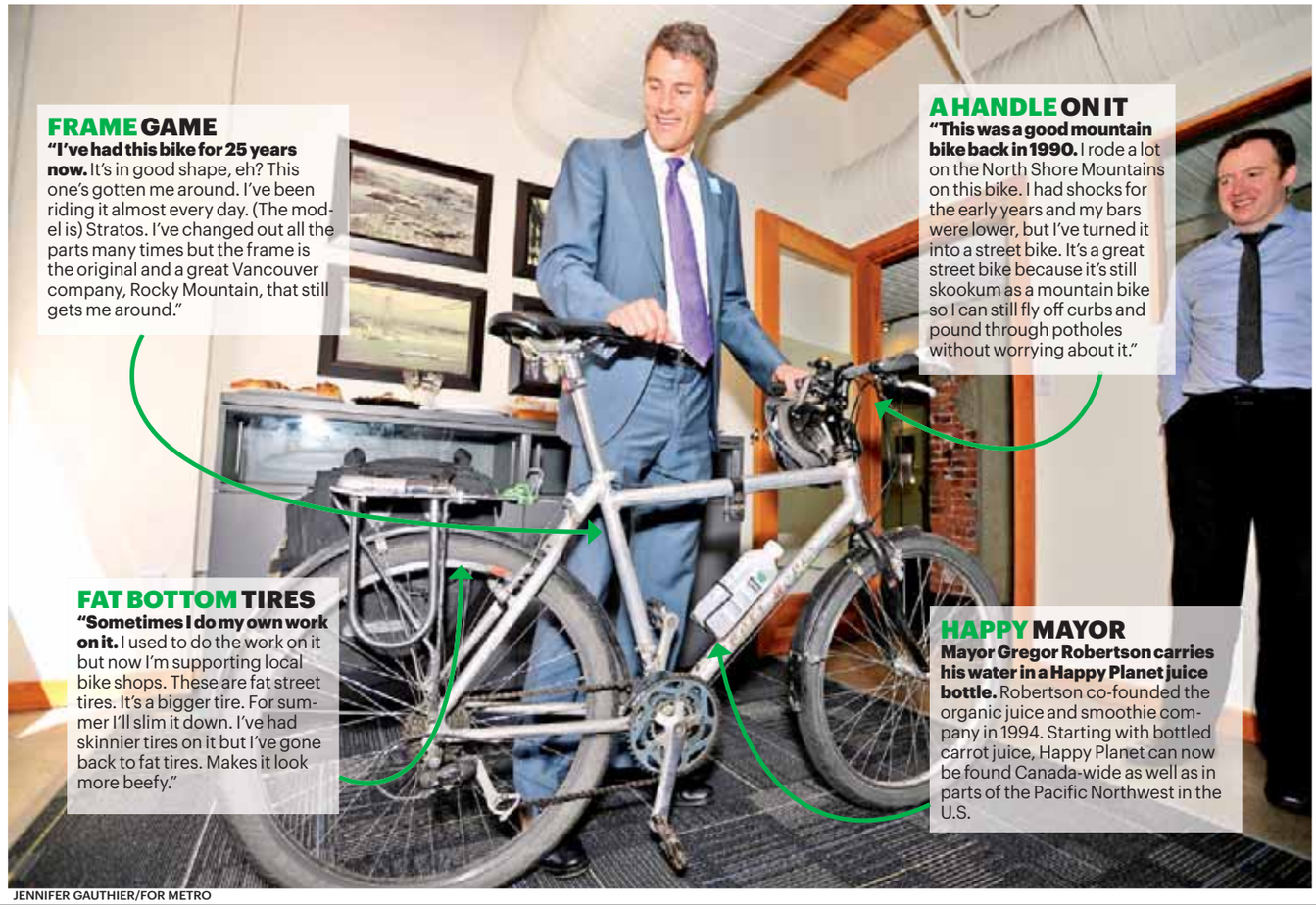
I expect so. I'm certainly not making any decisions on that right now; I've got three and a half years to work with.

BEST JOB EVER

"I love this job. So many people come to Vancouver and say, 'So you're the mayor of Vancouver; that must be the best job in the world.' Bill Clinton said that years ago before I was mayor, when I was just starting to campaign, he said that. And he's right. It is a great job and a great city."

Let me tell you about my bike

The mayor arrived at our office on his trusty bicycle. We asked him to give us a rundown on his hog:



FRAME GAME
"I've had this bike for 25 years now. It's in good shape, eh? This one's gotten me around. I've been riding it almost every day. (The model is) Stratos. I've changed out all the parts many times but the frame is the original and a great Vancouver company, Rocky Mountain, that still gets me around."

A HANDLE ON IT
"This was a good mountain bike back in 1990. I rode a lot on the North Shore Mountains on this bike. I had shocks for the early years and my bars were lower, but I've turned it into a street bike. It's a great street bike because it's still skookum as a mountain bike so I can still fly off curbs and pound through potholes without worrying about it."

FAT BOTTOM TIRES
"Sometimes I do my own work on it. I used to do the work on it but now I'm supporting local bike shops. These are fat street tires. It's a bigger tire. For summer I'll slim it down. I've had skinnier tires on it but I've gone back to fat tires. Makes it look more beefy."

HAPPY MAYOR
Mayor Gregor Robertson carries his water in a Happy Planet juice bottle. Robertson co-founded the organic juice and smoothie company in 1994. Starting with bottled carrot juice, Happy Planet can now be found Canada-wide as well as in parts of the Pacific Northwest in the U.S.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

CALGARY

Man charged after hurling obscenities

Calgary police have charged a man with hurling vulgarities at a female journalist while, ironically, covering the bad behaviour of hockey fans.

The man, who has not been named, faces a charge of stunting under the Traffic Safety Act.

CBC reporter Meghan Grant says she had been reporting along the Red Mile, a strip of bars and restaurants popular with Calgary Flames fans, the morning after a playoff game.

She was working on a story about poor fan behaviour, including the use of a sexually explicit phrase that has become a trend targeting female reporters in cities across North America. Then, she says, she heard the line herself.

"All of a sudden somebody pulls up in a truck behind us and yells it at us, which was absolutely stunning given what we were there talking about," Grant says. "We swung around only in time to see the truck driving away, but we did get the licence plate."

"All of a sudden somebody pulls up in a truck behind us and yells it at us."
CBC reporter Meghan Grant

She says police tracked down the alleged heckler and told her Thursday that the man had been charged.

Police spokeswoman Emma Poole says police have received several complaints about similar harassment. She believes it's the first time officers have laid a charge in such a case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INFRASTRUCTURE MR. HOCKEY GETS A BRIDGE Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, left, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Murray Howe, Gordie Howe's son, announced Thursday that the Detroit River International Crossing, connecting Detroit with Windsor, Ont., will be named the Gordie Howe International Bridge. The 87-year-old Howe, known as "Mr. Hockey," was born in Floral, Sask., and led the Detroit Red Wings to four Stanley Cup championships. PHOTO: DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS; TEXT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUN REGISTRY

Rewriting law sets 'perilous precedent'

An unprecedented Conservative bid to rewrite the law in order to retroactively erase the RCMP's mishandling of gun registry records sets the table for legislated, after-the-fact coverups of far more serious crimes, Canada's information commissioner declared Thursday.

In a new report tabled in Parliament, Suzanne Legault concluded that the practice establishes a "perilous precedent" of rewriting laws — one that could jeopardize the ability of authorities to prosecute electoral fraud or other government scandals.

Legault recommended two months ago that charges be laid against the RCMP for its role in withholding and destroying gun registry data. But instead of Justice Minister Peter MacKay moving on the recommendation to lay charges, the Harper government rewrote the law, backdated the changes and buried the amendment in an omnibus budget bill. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Information commissioner Suzanne Legault
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Khadr gets new win with SCOC ruling

Court rejects attempt to declare him an adult offender

The Supreme Court of Canada wasted no time Thursday as it summarily rejected the federal government's bid to have former Guantanamo Bay prisoner Omar Khadr declared an adult offender.

The case centred on whether the eight-year war-crimes sentence he got from a U.S. military commission in 2010 ought to be interpreted as a youth or adult sentence.

The federal government has argued the latter, saying Khadr actually received five concurrent eight-year terms for each of his five war crimes — a conclusion the nine justices rejected in a rare decision from the bench.

"The sentence is under the minimum for an adult sentence," Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin told the court after about 30 minutes of deliberations that followed the end of the hearing.

"We are of the view that a proper interpretation of the relevant legislation does not permit Mr. Khadr's eight-year sentence to be treated as five distinct eight-year sentences to be served concurrently."

Dennis Edney, one of Khadr's the lawyers, said the swiftness of the ruling was a message to the Harper government for wasting taxpayer money on "persecuting my client."

After almost 13 years in custody, Khadr was released on bail last week while he appeals his U.S. conviction, which has drawn fierce criticism from legal and human rights experts.

Khadr was 15 when he threw the grenade that killed U.S. Sgt. Christopher Speer during a firefight in Afghanistan in July 2002.

Several members of the panel challenged Department of Justice lawyer Sharlene Telles-Langdon during her 50-minute oral argument before a packed courtroom.

"We can't slice and dice the eight years."
Justice Marshall Rothstein

Justice Rosalie Abella asked Telles-Langdon whether she considers eight years to be a youth sentence. Yes, the lawyer replied.

"Then, isn't that the end of the story?" Abella said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Automatic, V6 engine, roof rack, premium cloth, split folding rear seats, A/C, power driver seats, digital keypad power door locks, rear liftgate door, front fog/driving lights, traction control.

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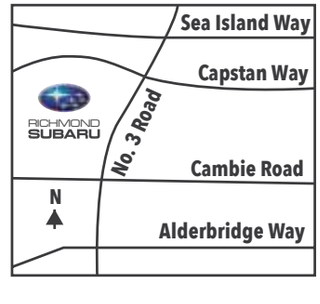

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NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

‘Our people need shelter’: Nepalese PM

Nepal has been overwhelmed by its second powerful earthquake in less than three weeks, its prime minister said Thursday as he visited this normally placid foothills town, now filling up with frightened villagers desperate for government help.

Thousands of people coming from surrounding areas to seek help crowd the streets of Charikot, the administrative centre of the isolated district hit hardest by Tuesday’s magnitude-7.3 quake, which killed at least 110 people and injured more than 2,300. The magnitude-7.8 earthquake that hit April 25 killed more than 8,150 people, injured tens of thousands, and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

“After the first quake, we were not prepared for a second one so big,” Prime Minister Sushil Koirala told reporters after arriving in Charikot by helicopter.

The coming monsoon rains loom large. “We need tents. Our people need shelter. With the rainy season, it will be difficult for people to survive in the open,” he said.

Nearly everyone is too afraid to sleep indoors and aftershocks are keeping people on edge in this town. Food has been handed out occasionally here, but nowhere near enough for the people who keep arriving. Many simply waited at the locked gates of the army’s small aid distribution centre, shaking the fence angrily when their frustration got the better of them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **After the first quake, we were not prepared for a second one so big.**
> Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal

BURUNDI FIGHTING BREAKS OUT IN CAPITAL DURING ATTEMPTED COUP A civilian jumps over a burning barricade of rocks erected by residents to protect themselves from police, in a northern district of the capital Bujumbura, in Burundi on Thursday. Gunfire and explosions rang out in Burundi’s capital as military forces backing an attempted coup against President Pierre Nkurunziza battled it out with forces loyal to the elected leader. ERIK ESBJORNSSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

Thailand, Malaysia refuse boat people

Rohingya and Bangladeshis abandoned at sea following a crackdown on human traffickers had nowhere to go Thursday after Malaysia turned away two wooden boats crammed with hundreds of hungry people. Thailand, too, made it clear the migrants were not wanted.

“What do you expect us to do?” asked Malaysian Deputy Home Minister Wan Junaidi Jafaar. “We have been very nice to the people who broke into our border. We have treated them humanely, but they cannot be flooding our shores like this.”

Thai Prime Minister Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, meanwhile, said his country couldn’t afford to host the refugees.

“If we take them all in, then anyone who wants to come will come freely,” he said. “Where will the budget come from?”

He had no suggestions as to where they should go, saying: “No one wants them.”

Southeast Asia for years tried to quietly ignore the plight of Myanmar’s 1.3 million Rohingya. It’s feared that up to 6,000 of the Muslim minority, who are intensely persecuted in Bwuddhist-majority Myanmar, have boarded ships to flee to other countries and are now stranded at sea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amtrak engineer under scrutiny in deadly wreck

PHILADELPHIA

Bostian remembers nothing of crash: Lawyer

Brandon Bostian was obsessed with trains while growing up, talked about them constantly and wanted to be an engineer or a conductor.

“He would go on vacation and bring back subway maps,” Stefanie McGee, a friend from Tennessee, recalled Thursday.

Bostian’s teenage dreams would come true. But now, at 32, the Amtrak engineer has found himself at the very centre of the investigation into the United States’ deadliest train wreck in nearly six years.

He was at the controls of a train that investigators say barrelled into a curve in Philadelphia on Tuesday night at more than 160 km/h, or twice the speed limit. Eight people were killed in the derailment and more than 200 injured.

Investigators want to know why the train was going so fast. But Bostian refused to talk to police on Wednesday, authorities said. And investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board said they would give him a day or two to recover from the shock of the accident before talking to him.

Bostian’s lawyer, Robert Goggin, told ABC News that his client suffered a concussion in the crash and has “absolutely no recollection whatsoever of the events.”

Goggin also said Bostian had not been using his cellphone, drinking or using drugs, and that he “co-operated fully” with police and told them “everything that he knew,” immediately consenting to a blood test and surrendering his cellphone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANADIAN

Wells Fargo said Wednesday that Abid Gilani, a Canadian senior vice-president at the company, was among the victims of Tuesday’s crash. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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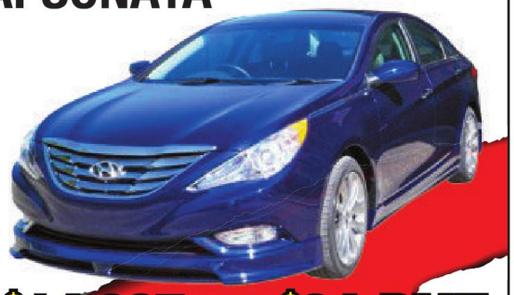

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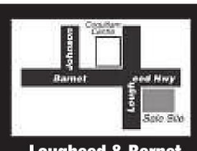

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Tax raids on Uber offices in Montreal

TRANSPORTATION

Investigators looking for documents, official says

Quebec tax authorities have raided two Montreal offices of Uber, the company that offers rides at prices lower than typical cab fares.

About 20 investigators executed search warrants on Thursday seeking tax-related documents, said Stephane Dion, a spokesman for the province's revenue agency.

"The investigation has been going on for several months," Dion said in an interview.

"At the moment we have 20 investigators on the premises of Uber Canada Inc. The goal is to obtain as much information as possible, and these documents will then be analyzed. After that, we'll be able to determine whether charges will be laid.

"Revenu Québec is responsible for applying tax laws. We have the power to recommend that charges be laid. And they can be accompanied by fines and prison sentences of up to five years if individuals or the company are found guilty."

Asked for reaction, Uber spokeswoman Susie Heath said in an email that "we look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders in Quebec to foster innovation, create jobs and provide consumers with much-needed affordable transit options."

The raids were conducted just more than two weeks after the City of Montreal announced it had seized 40 of the company's vehicles since the beginning of the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FISHERIES GEODUCK FARMING TAKES OFF
A growing appetite for a unique Pacific Northwest delicacy is prompting shellfish farmers to grow more geoducks. Last year, the U.S. exported $74 million US worth of the clams, mostly to China and Hong Kong, where they are served raw as sashimi or added to hotpot dishes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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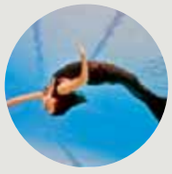
metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, May 15-18, 2015

Happy face/Sad face

From **babies' babblings** to **benders gone bad**, Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

A tail of woe for would-be mermaids

Swimmers are kicking up a fuss in Alberta after community pools banned mermaid fins, citing safety concerns. The trendy costumes bind the legs together tightly, making staying afloat a challenge for weaker swimmers. The province's Lifesaving Society favours a "mermaid test" of swimming ability over an outright ban, while parents say they're the best judges of their aspiring Ariels' skills. CBC.CA



Police bail out befuddled teens

Two teenage boys in Barrie, Ont. took some unidentified illicit drugs and promptly called 911 on themselves—because they couldn't find their way out of the woods. It was still broad daylight when police and EMS found the 19-year-olds with the help of sniffer dogs. The young men were "extremely disoriented" and "silently staring off into the sky." No charges were laid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Improving kids' speech as easy as "Hola!"

You can stop teaching your two-year-old Portuguese now — just move him to Brazil. A University of Chicago study found young children who hear more than one language at home become better communicators. Using a specially designed game, researchers learned children from multilingual homes, even if not bilingual, could better understand speakers' meaning than those who only heard their native tongue. UCHICAGO.EDU

Goldfish get gold star for attention span

Good news! For goldfish, that is. The attention span of the notoriously dim-witted species is now apparently longer than ours. A study of the brains of 2,000 Canadians found the length of time we can focus on one thought has dropped to eight seconds from 12 in the year 2000 — around the time when the Internet started thinking for us. Goldfish can concentrate for nine seconds, swimming circles around us skills-wise. OTTAWA CITIZEN

'FHRITP' is not the free speech cause to fight for

THE KOHLER REPORT
Rebecca Kohler

Acronyms that helped change the world: SCUBA, NAFTA, FHRITP.

For those of you who don't know or were in a coma this week, a group of Toronto soccer fans, including Shawn Simoes, argued with CityNews correspondent Shauna Hunt outside a game over the merits and "hilarity" of yelling "f–k her right in the p—y" at reporters while they try to do their jobs (a "trend" for over two years now). The spontaneous confrontation went viral, and Simoes subsequently lost his six-figure job at Hydro One. Boo her right in the hoo!

Social media has been hot with FHRITP fever ever since. While most people I know are in favour of the Simoes vitriol, I've been surprised to see a lot of people come not only to his defence but to the defence of FHRITP itself. What gives?

Sentiments include, "It's not sexual harassment because some people yell it at men," as well as, "It's not sexist because it's funny." (This guy went to the Andrew Dice Clay school of feminism.) Politically conservative media personality Ezra Levant asked the totally-missing-the-point question, "Why is it OK for Elizabeth May to use the F-bomb in public, but not these guys?"

Have people never heard of the term "context"? The F-word by itself is not misogynistic or upsetting (except maybe to your grandma). Follow it with the words "her" and "p—y," and all of a sudden you have what sounds like a command from one person to another to attempt sex on a woman, whether the woman would like that or not.

The confrontation went viral, and Simoes subsequently lost his six-figure job at Hydro One. Boo her right in the hoo!

There's another term for what that is, and it rhymes with "shmexual shmassault."

I mean, if the phrase was "Eat a marshmallow on Sunday!" then this conversation would be pretty boring. Shauna Hunt would be all, "That guy yelled that I should eat a marshmallow on Sunday!" and we'd all be like, "What a delicious idea!" Everyone would be happy, except diabetics.

But the phrase is "F—k her right in the p—y." Is that sexual harassment? Is it misogynistic? First of all, yes. Second of all, who cares? Why must we define it as such to agree that it shouldn't be socially acceptable to yell it at journalists? This is like fighting for the right to insulate your home with asbestos. You have the right to fight for it, but why would you want to?

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"Fashion may be fickle, but true style frees the mind."

No one looks like Iris Apfel.

The 93-year-old international style icon, to quote one designer, treats fashion as playfully as "a big box of Lego." Her outfits are more properly sculpture.

And like all artists, Apfel's true power is a defiantly individual imagination.

She won't be cowed to fit anyone's standards of style or thought but her own.

Apfel is the subject of Iris, a documentary rolling out across the country this month that follows her path from running a textile business with her husband, to interior designer for the White House, to fashion muse.

Despite the love showered on her late in life by fashion royalty after an exhibit of her wardrobe became an international sensation, she's so much more than they are.

She curates fantastical outfits — collisions of colour, patterns and feathers, layers of off-beat jewelry — and radiates freedom from conformity and the power of style as art.

Apfel abhors trends — those lazy directives on how you should look, peddled by brands and magazines for profits. In interviews, she's acerbically un-intellectual about her style and uninterested in defining it.

It's an attitude reminiscent of Katherine Hepburn, the starlet who wore menswear most of her life. Both exemplify how not to give a damn.

Apfel is a scavenger of flea markets and vintage stores. She detests head-to-toe high fashion and doesn't care what anything costs. She only cares, she's said in interviews, about how it makes her feel.

She speaks of the items of her wardrobe as loves.

"It feels good in my solar plexus," she's said of finding a new piece to add to the hundreds in her collection. "I get a good, warm feeling."

Browsing through photos of Apfel is as much of an adventure as reading Alice in Wonderland; you never know what you might see next.

The same can't be said for many of us. Self-consciousness is the rot in our closets. We're too often lured by the straightjacket of dictated taste.

But it doesn't have to be so. Apfel has no rules about how to dress. Her guide seems to be only the pure joy of self-expression.

And watching her wear whatever the hell she wants sends the message that you, too, can be different.

As one woman once told her, "I learned that if I don't have to dress like everybody else, I do not have to think like everybody else."

Fashion may be fickle, but true style frees the mind.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

Sip 'n' surf

Java or Java, coffee shops are a hot spot to connect

SHUTTERSTOCK

While it might be your barista's brew that brings you to your local café, the free Wi-Fi is also a perk worth of which to take advantage.

More and more, people come for the free Internet and stay for the coffee.

Once a place to connect in person, neighbourhood coffee shops have also evolved into hubs for device-toting customers to connect online — whether it's video chatting over a smartphone, playing a multiplayer word game on a tablet, or surfing through social media on a laptop.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that Java is both slang for coffee and the name of a popular computer language.

"Coffee shops are still the best meeting places for connected people," says Daniel Bader, editor in chief of MobileSyrup, Canada's largest independent source for mobile news and reviews.

"Wi-Fi is usually free and ubiquitous, and the atmosphere is often conducive to quietly working or chatting with friends."

Free wireless, in a hot spot like a coffee shop, is especially ideal for mobile phone users looking to avoid cellular data charges. Without the right plan — one that includes unlimited data and no overage fees — data could be a pricey pain point for Canadians; using a coffee shop's Wi-Fi connection doesn't count towards your monthly data limit (bucket), and is also ideal for those who don't have a cellular data plan at all.

"Wi-Fi offloading, the practice of moving cellular traffic to a Wi-Fi network, such as at a coffee shop, is becoming more prevalent as mobile usage increases," Bader says.

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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 31

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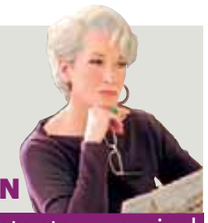

Your essential daily news

Who's the costume designer? The Devil Wears Prada to be made into stage musical

George Miller's Mad world

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

Director sees dystopia through lens of a doctor

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

George Miller has made pigs talk and penguins tap dance.

He's been a doctor and a film director. Among the bold-faced names on his resumé are the titles Babe: A Pig in the City, The Witches of Eastwick, Happy Feet 1 and 2 and Lorenzo's Oil. One name, however, looms larger than the rest: Mad Max.

Over the course of three films — Mad Max, Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior and Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome — he introduced the world to post-apocalyptic warrior Max Rockatansky, made Mel Gibson a superstar, defined dystopian cinema for a generation or two and created the phrase, "Two men enter, one man leaves."

This weekend, 30 years after the release of the last Mad Max movie, Miller revisits the character in Mad Max: Fury Road, a reboot starring Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron.

The 70-year-old director, who raised money to make the first film by working as an emergency room doctor, says the goal of the new movie was to make it "uniquely familiar."

After years of "following the CG evolution," using computer-generated images to create beautiful animated films, he was keen to go back to "old school" filmmaking "with real cars and real people and real desert."

That means, unlike the Avengers and their ilk, respecting the laws of physics by using practical effects and keeping the action earthbound.

In other words, in a call back to the original films, when a car blows up, it doesn't rocket into space. Instead it explodes spectacularly but organically. The wild action you see in Fury Road are actual stunts performed by stunt men and women and not generated by a clever computer operator in a studio.

"It was like going back to your old hometown and looking at it anew," he says.

Miller reveals he originally created Max's wasteland world while practising medicine.

"I worked for two-and-a-half years in a big city hospital. I stayed registered right up past Mad Max 2: Road Warrior. I never even thought there'd be a career. I stayed as a doctor on the first Mad Max because we kept running out of money in postproduction. Then I stayed through to the second Mad Max because if you are doing stunts, you are obliged to have a doctor on set. There weren't big budgets, so I ended up running a clinic during lunch time tending to cuts, sunburns, scrapes and all that."

Director George Miller originally financed Mad Max by working as an ER doctor.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

His two careers have much in common, he says, adding he was "privileged with a unique point of view as a doctor."

"I don't think I'd be the filmmaker I am unless I had that medical education, in two very direct ways. Both of them have a lot of problem-solving in there. But the most important way is that as a doctor you are looking at people in extremis from many points of view. You look inside of people. You see people during birth and death and so on. Through microscopes — a lens. So you're looking from many, many points of view. That's exactly what you do in cinema. Huge wide shots with massive crowds or you're looking right down inside someone's brain, someone's head."

As for plans to make another Mad Max right away, he says, "That's a bit like asking a woman who's just given birth if she's going to have another baby."

Tom Hardy in Mad Max: Fury Road.
CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Mad Max: Fury Road ★★★★½
Pitch Perfect 2 ★★★½
Good Kill ★★★½

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Not-so-secret feminism in Mad Max

FURY ROAD

Charlize Theron bulldozes her way to the alpha role in Fury Road

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Charlize Theron runs away with Mad Max: Fury Road.
CONTRIBUTED

It's taken Australian director George Miller 30 years to bring his iconic post-apocalyptic wanderer, Mad Max, back to the screen. In the super-charged update, Tom Hardy steps in for Mel Gibson — and then just as quickly steps aside for co-star Charlize Theron, who runs away with the film as Imperator Furiosa. And, as Hardy tells us, he's just fine with that.

This isn't your dad's Mad Max

"Mad Max is not actually in the driver's seat in this movie," Hardy says. "It's about time you had better female leads in action movies. This is not a feminist argument, it's a personhood situation. This is how we ought to reflect the times — not so much strong women, but just people. You know, you have a male and a female who are both just personhood situations on both sides of the gender. I wouldn't put it past George to come up with a transgender (hero), do you know what I mean? He's not the type of person who's going to mince his words."

The film has a strong feminist streak

"He's a smart man, George, so what he's doing is reflecting the times as well as pioneering at the same time. He's reading the times, what's going on," Hardy explains. "And it's no surprise to me that he would use a character that is synonymous with Mel Gibson, the silhouette and the icon of Mad Max, to re-establish the world which he started off 30-something years ago, but it's very clear that actually, right down to the shoulder pad on her left arm, (Theron) is the female protagonist of this movie.

Tom is fine with not being the hero of his own movie

"I think that's very, very smart of him to deliver a female lead in Mad Max," Hardy says. "I remember talking to George back in Namibia about old-school movie star, male-female chemistry. How does the dynamic work between a strong alpha-male and a strong alpha-female on screen when you get them together. And I think in this one ... Charlize led this entire movie and it shows on screen and you can see it quite clearly. One has to yield to that. Because if you fight it, you get malleted."

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Elizabeth Banks on the Set of Pitch Perfect 2. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banking on Pitch Perfect 2

SEQUELS

Actor makes directorial debut with a cappella comedy

Everyone warned Elizabeth Banks against filming the outdoor concert finale for Pitch Perfect 2. It was June in Baton Rouge, La. It was scorching hot, it was hurricane season, and they would have to build a full, functioning stage and recruit a small town of extras to make it believable.

But Banks knew what she wanted.

"I kept saying, 'I don't care, it's going to look cool, we've got to do it'," said the actress, producer, and now, feature director.

It took nearly a month to build the Glastonbury Festival-inspired stage. As for the extras, the production sent out an open invitation casting call to fans of Pitch Perfect.

Over 3,000 people showed up. The massive undertaking required four all-night shoots, multiple cameras, elaborate performances and a tolerance for mysterious bug bites. Banks even took responsibility for the crowd's waning energy.

"At one point, she went out on stage and started whipping them into a frenzy," said Banks' husband and producing partner, Max Handelman. But the crowd really lost it when she brought a few Bellas out, too.

"It was her connecting the fans with the girls and letting everyone know that this was a big deal," said Handelman.

It's no secret that Pitch Perfect has fans to spare. Universal Pictures' modest 2012 comedy about a college a capella group (the Bellas) racked up $113 million worldwide and an additional $103 million in home video sales.

As plans for a sequel started to take shape, the first film's director, Jason Moore, signed on to the Tina Fey-Amy Poehler comedy Sisters, and suddenly Pitch Perfect 2 needed a director.

Banks, known for roles in The 40-Year-Old Virgin and The Hunger Games, had been thinking about directing for some time.

Plus, as a producer and actor on the first film, Banks already knew the a cappella world and had the trust of returning cast like Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson.

"Right as I was raising my hand to do it, the studio said, 'Why don't you do it?'" she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Adam Devine on happy accidents

Adam DeVine didn't initially think much of 2012's Pitch Perfect, which he totally owns up to.

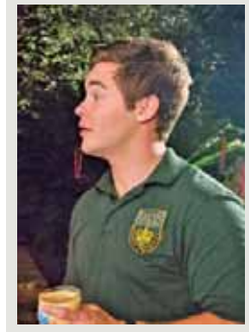
"Just because I'm generally ill-prepared and smoke too much weed, I thought the first movie was a baseball movie when I went to the audition," he remembers. "And then I get there and there's all these superhandsome dudes with abs in their cheeks, and they're all singing."

He managed to wing it and earn the role of Bumper, the first film's sort-of villain, but any antagonism is gone in the sequel, he explains to Metro.

Bumper works as a campus security guard in the sequel. How did you prepare?

Well, the campus security part of the movie isn't that detailed. I basically just wear a T-shirt, I'm not really securing much. You don't delve into that backstory too deeply. But to answer your question, no. Not at all. I did make out with Rebel (Wilson) several times before just to see how well our lips worked together.

NED EHRBAR/METRO



Adam DeVine

Now playing

COMEDY

Pitch Perfect 2

Director: Elizabeth Banks
Starring: Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson

Surprise hit Pitch Perfect gets sequelized in this Universal Pictures production once again scripted by Kay Cannon.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 73% Audience: +97%

DRAMA

Phoenix

Director: Christian Petzold
Starring: Nina Hoss, Nina Kunzendorf

Badly injured, her face destroyed, Auschwitz survivor Nelly returns to her hometown of Berlin. Her husband doesn't believe it's really her. Hoping to secure her family's inheritance, he suggests she take on the identity of his late wife. Nelly agrees: She becomes her own imposter.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 96% Audience: +93%

DRAMA

Dancing Arabs

Director: Eran Riklis
Starring: Tawfeek Barhom, Yaël Abecassis

Poignant drama about a Palestinian-Israeli boy who moves to Jerusalem to attend a prestigious school. He soon falls in love with a Jewish girl, and faces strong parental disapproval over his new romance.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: No reviews yet Audience: +100%

DOCUMENTARY

Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief

Director: Alex Gibney
Starring: Paul Haggis

Directed by Oscar winner Alex Gibney and based on the book by Pulitzer Prize winner Lawrence Wright, Going Clear profiles eight former members of the Church of Scientology.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 96% Audience: 92%

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Bringing computer games to real life

Figure out the clues to gain your freedom

Forget about the pub — locking people in a room with nothing but flashlights, their wits and clues to gain their freedom is the latest way to bring employees together.

"It works because people have to communicate and work together to figure out the clues, or it can be treated like a competition, pitting employees against each other to see who finishes first," says Jerry You, owner of the Exit escape room's latest location on West Broadway.

Based off escape-the-room computer games, participants have 45 minutes to work their way through multiples rooms by solving clues, gaining pass codes that move them into the next room, and, ultimately, gaining their freedom.

"There's a sort of narrative that people have to follow in order to escape," You says as he moves pawns on a chessboard to magnetically unlock a drawer revealing another clue. Very James Bond.

There is a choice of four rooms with different themes: Illusions; Transylvania; Circus; and the Butcher Shop.

CONTRIBUTED

Each theme is harder than the next. You points out a white board at the entrance of Exit that tallies those who have passed and failed the rooms. Many have passed Illusions and Transylvania, but none have managed to solve the Butcher.

"People often try do one room and then try them all," You says. "Even if they fail they come out happy because it's something they haven't tried before. You have to make it hard so people want to challenge themselves."

Companies aren't the only groups that can benefit from playing games. You says large families from grandparents to teenagers love to test their problem-solving skills.

"It's really something for everyone. You don't have to be a gamer or good at math because it's all logical. Even if they run out of time, they never come out disappointed."

FOCUS ON LOGIC

Escape rooms originated in China and Japan as a way to bring computer games into real life.

Exit was the first to bring escape rooms to Vancouver with its first location in Richmond. The 4D gaming experience has become so popular that there are three locations in Richmond, Kelowna and Vancouver, with two more opening in Surrey and Calgary. Escape rooms were originally rather mathematical, but Exit focuses on logic, making escaping the room possible for everyone — as long as the clock doesn't run out.

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metro TRAVEL

Your essential daily news

Adult colouring books Secret Paris and Splendid Cities will be published June 9

Chantal Doiron (right) leads a bike tour past Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cycling to take over Montreal

QUEBEC

Go Bike festival offers new way to see sights

A city that already carries the distinction of being North America's most bike-friendly city, Montreal puts its love of cycling on display at the end of May each year.

The week-long Go Bike Montreal Festival pays homage to that cycling culture, comprising a number of events geared toward riders of all experiences and ages.

"Bicycles are now part of the DNA of Montreal," says Joelle Sevigny of Vélo Québec, which organizes the event. "It's quite an amazing experience to discover a city this way. It's quite a blast."

The May 24 to 31 Go Bike festival includes three major rides culminating with the marquee event: the Tour de l'Ile de Montreal.

Into its 31st year, the island-wide tour allows riders to explore Montreal with a different route each year, extending through some 22 towns and boroughs. You can go at your own pace — the tour has a variety of distances for all riders, ranging from 28 kilometres to 100 kilometres.

"It's the first gathering of the season," Sevigny says of the May 31 event. "Some people get out there and do the full route, but the idea is to just get out there and ride."

Several other events throughout the week can help you get warmed up. Kicking off the event on May 24 is the Metropolitan Challenge, a recreational ride with no podium and no clock. This year's event will trace a route that begins and ends in Chateauguay, Que., south of Montreal.

For those who prefer cycling under the stars, the Tour la Nuit is a 21-kilometre ride on May 29 and offers a unique, nocturnal experience. It drew 17,000 riders last year.

Sevigny says almost a quarter of the participants at the festival travel at least 40 kilometres to attend and many from even further.

"It's the only place in North America where we have a bike fest," Sevigny says. "The whole province of Quebec is really renowned for its festivals and this event is very unique to the province."

In general, Montreal's reputation as a cycling tourism hot spot is growing, in part thanks to 600 kilometres of dedicated bike paths and the popular bike share program Bixi.

An Old Montreal bike shop and tour operator chalks it up to tourists wanting to sightsee differently. André Giroux, owner of Ca Roule, offers various rides and tours with themes like architecture, history and gastronomy.

This year, Giroux says he's adding a new street food bike tour to coincide with the recent arrival of the foodie phenomenon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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St. Lucia defines getaway holiday

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

Canadians seem programmed to seek out the Caribbean only when there is snow on the ground but the island of St. Lucia offers compelling reasons to take a summer vacation down south.

BEAUTY

The most recognizable image of St. Lucia is of the picturesque and UNESCO-protected Pitons, a pair of lush volcanic spires rising out of the water on the southwest corner of the island. The hike to the top of Gros Piton is well worth the couple of hours it will take you.

Other areas of the island offer a stunning mix of rainforest, beach and enough mountainous terrain to ensure jaw-dropping views from every vantage point.

ACTIVITIES

St. Lucia is not considered one of the Caribbean's premiere scuba-diving destinations, but it should be.

A dive to the Lesleen 'M' Wreck with Dive Saint Lucia convinced me of that.

The small ship was deliberately sunk in 1985 and is covered from bow to stern in anemones and colourful fire coral.

As we explored the open cargo holds, schools of electric blue fish poured down the sides of the ship like cascading waterfalls.

Other activities include rock climbing, zip-lining and lathering up in the volcanic mud baths of Sulphur Springs Park, which is considered a rite of passage for any visitor to the island.

CULTURE

Independent since 1979, the culture of St. Lucia remains a mix of French, British and Creole. The best way to experience it is to put yourself in the path of the friendly locals.

Chat with a vendor over a cup of coffee at the Saturday market in Soufrière or check out Jump Up, a street party complete with music, food and locally made rum that takes place every Friday night in the town of Castries.

Kick back at the Ladera Resort in St. Lucia. PETER REMUS

HOTELS

The islands' hotels have created niches to suit every taste, whether you are traveling solo or as a family.

The stunning Ladera Resort is a couples-only resort, which sets the standard for romantic getaways. With open-air rooms complete with furniture and case goods made by local wood carvers, giant showers tiled with playful mosaics and private plunge pools all uniquely positioned with a view between the Pitons, you can't help but get in the mood.

Rendezvous is another couples-only resort popular with people planning a destination wedding. The resort will make an exception for your single mother-in-law ... if you really want to bring her.

The BodyHoliday is a wellness resort on the northwest side of the island offering everything from massages to complete seven-day overhauls of your body, inside and out.

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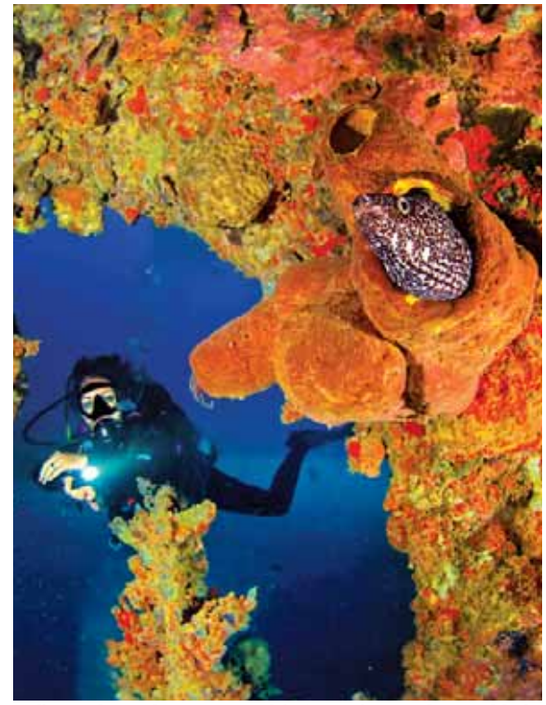

A dive to the Lesleen 'M' Wreck in St. Lucia reveals a world of colour. HENLEY SPIERS/DIVE SAINT LUCIA

Daily service during summer schedule

ROUTING	FLT No.	DEPT	ARRL	FLT No.	DEPT	ARRL
YYC-YVR-TPE	CI9315	23:15	23:41	CI 031	02:00	06:05
YEG-YVR-TPE	CI9317	21:15	21:48	CI 031	02:00	06:05
YYZ-YVR-TPE	CI9313	22:00	00:02	CI 031	02:00	06:05
YVR-LAX-TPE	CI9321	16:25	19:13	CI 007	01:05	06:00
YYC-LAX-TPE	CI9318	19:20	21:28	CI 007	01:05	06:00

* For the most updated flight schedule, please check and provide the itinerary to your travel agency.

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TRAVEL NOTES NEW WESTJET ROUTES, SEASIDE SPLENDOUR

New domestic WestJet flights

Airline WestJet has spread its wings with a number of new, daily non-stop services in Canada. In the west, these include flights between Calgary and Terrace, B.C., and Calgary and Yellowknife. In the east, there are now flights between Toronto and Gander, N.L. Keep an eye out in mid-July for new flights between Halifax and Sydney, and Halifax and Gander, Deer Lake, and St. John's.

Bucket List: St. Ives, England

With the Gulf Stream ensuring warm summers, this Cornwall holiday town on the Celtic Sea is consistently voted the best seaside spot in Britain. Find fisherman's cottages, cobblestone streets, coastal footpaths, art galleries — including an outpost of London's Tate Gallery — and golden sand under your feet at four beaches. Take the train. Visit StIves-Cornwall.co.uk.

Emergency contact

Both social network Facebook and search giant Google have waded into natural disaster relief in the best way they know how: Facebook's Safety Check notifies you in the event of a natural or humanitarian disaster to ask if you're safe, then informs friends and family; and Google's Person Finder (Google.org/personfinder) lets you search for a data roundup of specific people following a disaster. DOUG WALLACE

ALBANIA

Tunnels, bunkers to woo visitors

This summer Albania plans to debut what it hopes will become a new selfie spot for tourists: Sazan Island, a former military base that still has bunkers and tunnels designed to withstand nuclear attack.

"What once was an isolated, unreached spot, a mystery to almost all Albanians but a few then-communist leaders, may now turn into an attractive place, especially for foreign tourists," says Auron Tare of Albania's National Coastal Agency.

Sazan Island is still technically a military base, but only two sailors remain, offering night shelter to navies patrolling Albanian waters. "It's a mysterious island, part of the old communist Albania's mystery," says Celine Damery of France's Conservatoire du Littoral, which conserves coastal areas.

In the trenches

The island's many trenches and tunnels show how much money the once cash-strapped communist government spent fearing a Western invasion. But now they're hoping Westerners will come, both to see Sazan and the country's other attractions — unspoiled beaches, tall mountains and history going back to ancient Greece.

Walking uphill on a mile-long pathway through pine trees and singing birds, many of the 3,600 one-man bunkers can still be seen dotting the hills, often in the shade of wild fig trees. It's not easy getting inside the bunkers though: They're still guarded — by lizards and the occasional snake. Inland, the spooky, ruined buildings still contain old beds, kitchen utensils, school benches and chairs.

The island needs power and drinking water installed before tourists can arrive, but Tare has lots of ideas for Sazan's future. Anti-nuclear tunnels would be cool for visitors on hot summer days, and could maybe even be repurposed as wine cellars, Tare says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INCORPORATE YOUR OWN STYLE

AT MINICHIELLO

Minichiello has been a Vancouver bespoke tailoring and couture institution for 50 years.

Over those five decades, clients have mainly requested custom-tailored suits and shirts, revelling in being able to incorporate their very own style details, from the ultra-trendy and purely eccentric to classic traditional, and even sombre.

But, more recently, Minchiello's couture side of the business for women has exploded. Simply by bringing in pictures or sketches of gowns you like, Minichiello's tailors can finalize a design that meshes all your favourite details. With access to exclusive haute couture fabrics from a prestigious mill in Spain, every type of silk from tulle to organza and more, in every colour, as well as all the trimmings, Minichiello can create a one-of-a-kind outfit for you.

Whether bespoke or couture, if you aren't quite sure what it is you want, Minichiello will guide you through a simple series of questions to a finished product that meets exactly what you had in mind.

Passion sets Minichiello apart from its competitors — passion and selection of fine European fabrics, an ability to design, and, very importantly, European trained tailors.

Minchiello's tailors have the skills to produce the finest, most beautiful garments that you could ever dream up, yet they can also use their training and skills to provide expert alterations and repairs on all your garments.

CONTRIBUTED

CONTRIBUTED

A fashion destination for more than three decades

When young women with their mothers, as well as their grandmothers, happily shop together at the same fashion store, you know that retailer is onto something special. That store is enda b.

The locally owned, family-run business recognizes what's important to women of all ages: Impeccable adherence to style, design, variety and quality that makes you feel good. Enda b is well-loved by women of all ages and walks of life, locally and internationally.

A fashion destination for more than three decades, enda b's 4,000-square-foot store in Point Grey Village offers exciting and inspiring selections each season from the collections of more than 30 international and Canadian designer collections — some of which are exclusive to the leading fashion retailer.

While enda b encourages its in-store customers to take their time, experiment and enjoy trying things on, busy executives can shop enda b by phone or other means, with sales staff offering wardrobing consultations. For enda b staff, it is all about enhancing the shopping experience while addressing the customers' unique needs.

At enda b, you will find exclusively chosen-for-you selections from the European chic of Luisa Cerano, the hip, lifestyle wear of DKNY, the pure shapes of Eileen Fisher, the fresh casual wear of BRAX Feel Good, as well as emerging line Animapop's funky reversible and packable neoprene dresses, and much more.

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Meet the new kid on the sports block

Stop by Sportopolis

Sportopolis, at 2862 West 4th Ave., is Vancouver's newest sporting goods store. The small, independent retailer that opened late last month in Kitsilano specializes in soccer, volleyball, yoga, rugby, and more.

Carrying top brands in its niche markets for each sport, Sportopolis offers a more personalized service for Vancouver's active sports community than that of the big sporting goods chains. Sportopolis also caters to the customized needs of the city's teams and clubs.

The store carries men's, women's and children's cleats, indoor shoes, apparel, balls, goalie apparel, and protective gear for soccer and rugby.

Sportopolis has indoor and beach volleyball equipment and clothing, and a carries a range of footwear specially designed for volleyball and other court sports like tennis or squash.

Check out the store's Canadian-made yoga wear from Karma, Keylime and Dusky Leaf. Most of the store's yoga products are Canadian-made and produced using natural fibres.

CONTRIBUTED

Sportopolis supports the local community and businesses not only through its Canadian-made yoga wear, but also in carrying fair-trade soccer balls made by Social Conscience, a local company.

You can get your Canada 2015 women's soccer jerseys and T-shirts at Sportopolis to celebrate the FIFA Women's World Cup, coming to Vancouver in June.

ALL YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS ARE AT TWIST

Fashion is always in season at Twist. The Vancouver boutique has beautiful pieces arriving all the time, pieces they will hand-pick to suit you and your lifestyle.

Personal service is also always in season at Twist. For nearly 30 years, Twist has been honing its client relationships, including relationships of 10, 15, and 20 years. The store has even attracted second-generation clients.

Twist offers an in-store stylist experience each time you visit. The staff not only love fashion, but know how to pull the right product for your body type. Do you have a budget? Let the staff at Twist know. They will be sure to provide the best selection for your money.

Do you have a big event coming up? Give Twist a call and the staff will select the best stuff, leaving nothing for you to do but show up and try on things.

Do you need a serious wardrobe refresh? Book a wardrobing session at the boutique. Twist is like your personal shopper, with an in-store selection and sizes that will get you wardrobed with a minimum of effort and time.

What is in-store at Twist? Just your favourite brands, like AG Denim, Mexx, Paige, J Brand, Sandwich, Michael Kors, James Perse, Inwear, Part Two, Jackpot, Iris, Hudson Jeans, Citizen of Humanity, Sanctuary, Velvet, bobi, Bailey 44, Michael Stars, Shereen de Rousseau, Karen Telio, and more.

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With the French Open looming, Serena Williams pulled out of the Italian Open with an ailing elbow

Whitecaps, Sounders set to rekindle their rivalry

MLS

Valuable points on the line in Saturday's derby match

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

The fortress will soon be vacated. Only on a temporary basis, as the home confines for the Vancouver Whitecaps will soon be needed for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup, which is quickly approaching.

After this weekend, the Whitecaps have only one more game at home before they will endure a five-game road trip — spread out over five weeks — through June and the start of July.

That same fortress, BC Place Stadium, is expected to be rocking this weekend. It always does when a Cascadia Cup rival comes to Vancouver.

This time, it's the Seattle Sounders FC in town.

The Sounders and host Whitecaps will do battle on Saturday, before a sold-out crowd.

Atmosphere alone is always at a peak when either the Sounders or Portland Timbers enter BC Place. It's loud. And that's not just from the Southsiders at one end — Vancouver's supporters occupy the west end of the stadium — and their constant chanting and singing. It's not just from the groups of opposing team supporters who often have their own section to enjoy the game.

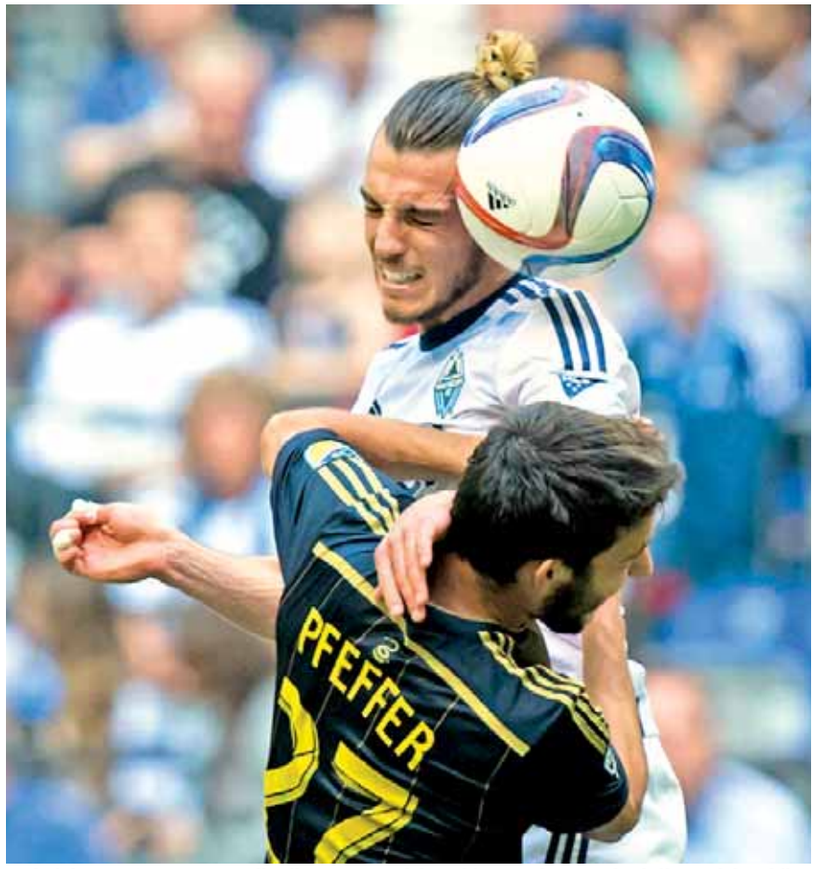
After last weekend's victory over Philadelphia, which lacked suspense from about the 30-minute mark of the first half and onward, the Whitecaps are tasked with trying to earn three critical points against a much better opponent.

The Sounders have a road record of 2-2-1. They've scored eight goals, and allowed six, away from CenturyLink Field in Seattle.

Adding to the drama is where these two teams find themselves in the Western Conference standings. The Whitecaps have 20 points, tops in the conference, after 11 games, while the Sounders are third, with 16 points and two games in hand on the Vancouver side.

While the Whitecaps have pulled some favourable results on the road like they were rabbits in a hat, winning at home is now of the utmost importance considering their next game at BC Place after May 30 won't come until the second week of July.

A rivalry renewed in front of a sell-out crowd with three valuable points on the line — just another derby match between Seattle and Vancouver.



In their last MLS game, Russell Teibert, top, and the Whitecaps beat Zach Pfeffer and the Philadelphia Union 3-0. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Canucks sign offensive blue-liner to entry-level deal

Jordan Subban
GRAIG ABEL/GETTY IMAGES

With the deadline soon approaching to get Jordan Subban under contract, the Vancouver Canucks announced Thursday they signed the offensively gifted defenceman to an entry-level deal.

June 1 was the deadline to get the 20-year-old Subban signed. Had the Canucks not signed him by that day, Subban would've been eligible to enter into the 2015 NHL draft next month.

Subban was selected in the fourth round in 2013.

> **"I didn't feel any pressure we weren't going to get a deal done.**
> Jim Benning

This past season, he led the OHL's Belleville Bulls in goals (25) and points (52) in 63 games.

The Canucks like his offensive ability, but general manager Jim Benning said there are still areas of Subban's game he will need to improve on at the professional level.

Those areas include getting stronger and defending in his own end, said Benning.

Subban is listed at five-foot-nine and 185 pounds.

"When you don't have the height, you need the strength," said Benning.

Subban, a Mike Gillis draft pick, impressed last September in his lone exhibition game with the Canucks before being sent back to junior.

For a while now, Benning had been fielding questions about Subban's future with the club.

Benning said there was a wait to negotiate a deal so it didn't "interfere" with his season. However, the approaching deadline seemed to have caused Canucks fans considerable angst.

"I didn't feel any pressure we weren't going to get a deal done," said Benning.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Canada revs its engine in friendly

Jessie Fleming and Karina LeBlanc are putting their best foot forward ahead of the Women's World Cup — and it's paying off.

The teenaged Fleming scored in the first half and LeBlanc took over in net in the second to give Canada a 1-0 win over Mexico in a soccer friendly on Thursday in Santa Monica, Calif.

Canada is preparing for the Women's World Cup and competing in a series of friendlies.

"We understand that our goal is to inspire a nation and in order to do that we need to be the best versions of ourselves," said LeBlanc. "Every single day we have that mentality. It's not about us, it's about that flag that we wear on our chests that represents each and every Canadian."

> **"We know there will be a moment in this World Cup where we're going to need this country to rise for us.**
> Goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc

The only goal of the game came when the Mexican goalkeeper could not corral a cross and the 17-year-old Fleming from London, Ont., tapped the ball in.

"When Jessie steps on the field none of us look at her at the age that she is. We look at her as another great player for our country and she'll get the job done," said LeBlanc.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian teenager Jessie Fleming scored the winner on Thursday night. GETTY IMAGES

Rousey's life a fight from the beginning

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

UFC star's book doesn't skimp on hard knocks

Barefoot in a Toronto boardroom, the world's most dominant athlete — so says the cover of Sports Illustrated — is losing her voice.

(Rowdy) Ronda Rousey, UFC champion, Olympic judo bronze medallist, actor and now author, is feeling the effects of a bout of pneumonia.

"I've never fully recovered because they've had me talking constantly all day since," she said with a slight laugh. "But now I'm feeling like Adele-raspy, not like mute. We're going in stages."

Rousey, 28, has survived far worse, as her new autobiography My Fight/Your Fight documents.

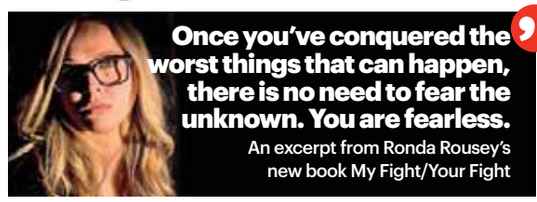
The current rock star of mixed martial arts was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck, came late to talking, has been homeless, battled bulimia, has fallen asleep at the wheel while juggling minimum-wage jobs, has put her body through hell, discovered naked photos taken without her knowledge by a boyfriend, bumped heads with her mother and mourned the tragic death of her father.

There was no shortage of material for the book Rousey had always talked of writing.

"When I was really having some of my hardest days, I would tell myself — kind of as a pep talk — that I was just in the difficult part of the book and that I was in the middle of a very interesting autobiography," said Rousey, who kept journals growing up.

"And I was convinced I was on my way to something and I wasn't stuck where I was."

Rousey, who wrote the book with journalist/sister Maria Burns Ortiz, wanted to deliver more than a memoir — and succeeds. It's an easy read that rises from the entertaining to the inspirational at times. THE CANADIAN PRESS


Once you've conquered the worst things that can happen, there is no need to fear the unknown. You are fearless.
An excerpt from Ronda Rousey's new book My Fight/Your Fight

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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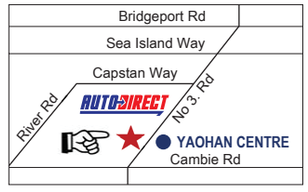

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IN BRIEF

Astros surge past Blue Jays in seventh inning

Jonathan Villar's two-run double put Houston on top in a four-run seventh inning and the Astros beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-4 on Thursday.

Rookie Preston Tucker's RBI double off Aaron Loup in the seventh brought the Astros within 4-3. Villar's double scored two more to give Houston the lead. The Jays walked Jose Altuve before he stole second and Josh Thole's error allowed Villar to add an insurance run. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brady appeals 4-game ban

Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady appealed the four-game suspension he was handed for his role in using deflated footballs during the AFC championship game, and the players union urged Commissioner Roger Goodell to appoint a neutral arbitrator to hear the case.

The expected appeal was filed by the NFL Players Association on Thursday about an hour before a 5 p.m. Eastern deadline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's Tristan Thompson had 13 points and 17 rebounds — and was a worthy second option to LeBron James — on Thursday night in Chicago. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA PLAYOFFS

Ailing Cavaliers still bowl over Bulls

LeBron James struggled to score 15 points, Kyrie Irving limped off the court and the Cleveland Cavaliers still beat the Chicago Bulls 94-73 on Thursday night to clinch their Eastern Conference semifinal series in six games.

Matthew Dellavedova scored 19 points and Tristan Thompson added 13 points and 17 rebounds to help the Cavaliers advance to the conference final for the first time since 2009, even though their superstar played like a mere mortal and their all-star point guard hobbled to the locker room in the first half.

Still, Cleveland is right where it expected to be after James decided to come home from Miami and return to his first team. The Cavaliers didn't expect to get there like this, though — with Kevin Love suffering a season-ending shoulder injury in the opening round and Irving trying to gut through problems with both legs.

Irving scored six points in 12 minutes before he came down on Thompson's foot early in the second quarter with the score 35-35 and did not return. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAME 6 In Chicago

CAVALIERS	BULLS
94	73

Former Lions defensive tackle Khalif Mitchell was fined by the CFL on Thursday for posting a Holocaust denial video on Twitter. DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Twitter trouble again for Mitchell

CFL

Former B.C. lineman fined for Holocaust denial tweets

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Former B.C. Lion Khalif Mitchell has been fined an undisclosed amount by the Canadian Football League for what it called a violation of its social media policy, after the veteran defensive lineman posted on his Twitter account a video that denies the Holocaust.

Mitchell posted a link to the video on YouTube, "The greatest lie ever told — The Holocaust — 2015" from his Twitter account, @TruthWillFree96, on May 8. At press time, the tweet still remained in his feed.

"There is absolutely no place in our league for commentary used to divide or disparage others along the lines of sex, race, religion or sexual orientation," said CFL commissioner Jeffrey Orridge in a statement released Thursday afternoon.

"While we acknowledge that players have a right to hold and express their own opinions, in no circumstance do we condone activity or comments that are derogatory or inappropriate, putting the League's reputation in question — and we feel Mr. Mitchell's recent behaviour on social media has violated these principles."

Mitchell, 30, has had two separate stops with the Lions, the most recent being last season. He is now with the Montreal Alouettes.

"As an all-star and role model for Canadian youth, Mr. Mitchell should not be sending out divisive and hateful tweets under the banner of the Montreal Alouettes organization," said Michael Mostyn, CEO of Jewish advocacy and human rights group B'nai Brith Canada, in a statement.

"Mr. Mitchell has a history of posting wacky and offensive tweets. In 2012 the CFL fined Mitchell an undisclosed amount for violating the league's social media policy for using derogatory terms against people of Chinese descent."

Mitchell's Twitter account features a variety of retweets on Israel, ISIS, the Ku Klux Klan, and military conspiracy theories.

In an interview with the National Post, Mitchell said he believed the Holocaust happened.

In a tweet from his account Thursday morning, Mitchell wrote: "I know the TRUTH Shall Free Me...Anti-Semitism doesn't, hasn't & NEVER Will LIVE Here."

Steven Gerrard GETTY IMAGES FILE

BPL SOCCER

Liverpool legend Gerrard 'dreading' last match at Anfield

Ask Liverpool fans what they'll miss most about Steven Gerrard when he leaves for the United States and they'll reel off a list of qualities that made their longtime captain one of the most revered players in English soccer.

The spectacular goals. Those surging runs into the box. His indomitable spirit. His devotion to the club.

Gerrard is regarded as a humble hometown icon in these parts, and that will ensure there will be an outpouring of emotion on Saturday when he plays at Anfield for the final time in a Liverpool shirt. Such is the demand for tickets for Gerrard's home farewell that some are being sold for more than 2,500 pounds ($3,950) on the Internet.

"I've been dreading this moment," Gerrard said Thursday, looking ahead to the game against Crystal Palace. "I'm going to miss it. The aim is to stay strong and avoid a few tears."

Since making his debut in 1998 as a fresh-faced 18-year-old midfielder wearing a jersey far too big for him, Gerrard has played 708 games for Liverpool and scored 185 goals. He captained Liverpool to the Champions League title in 2005 — "the best night of my life, the pinnacle professionally" — and was voted the club's best player in a poll on its website in 2013.

His final game will be against Stoke on May 24.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Streb leads Wells Fargo
Robert Streb shot a 7-under 65 on Thursday to take a one-shot lead over Patrick Reed and Kevin Chappell after the first round of the Wells Fargo Championship in Charlotte, N.C.

Stewart Cink topped the six-player group at 67.

Top-ranked Rory McIlroy appeared on the verge of making a late run at the leaderboard before making a double bogey on the difficult par-3 17th hole. McIlroy appeared stunned when his tee shot hit the rock wall in front of green and his ball caromed high into the air and into the water. He finished with a 70.

Phil Mickelson had his troubles too after a fast start. Mickelson opened with three birdies, but made a double bogey on the 18th hole. He shot 71, leaving him six shots back. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giro leader Contador crashes out in Stage 6
Overall leader Alberto Contador injured his arm in a crash on the final sprint of the sixth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Thursday.

Contador was able to get up and finish the stage but was unable to lift his left arm on the podium to put on the pink jersey, and did not pick up the celebratory bottle of champagne.

The Spaniard will undergo tests and X-rays, his Tinkoff-Saxo team said.

"It's a serious blow, we have to evaluate his condition," Tinkoff general manager Stefano Feltrin said.

Victoria's Ryder Hesjedal, winner of the 2012 Giro, finished the stage in 87th and was 30th overall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Re: The estate of HUGH HARVEY, deceased, formerly of 2143 West 46th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6M 2L2, who died on February 6, 1930.
Beneficiaries having an interest in the estate of the Deceased are hereby notified that particulars of their interest should be sent to #2700 – 700 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V7Y 1B8, on or before June 8, 2015, after which date an application for the removal of a charge on title held by the Deceased on real property located at 4506 Rupert Street, Vancouver, BC, may be made without further notice. Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP, Barristers + Solicitors.

RECIPE Chicken Tostadas with Homemade 'Refried' Beans

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients
- 4 small corn tacos

Refried beans
- 1/2 cup diced onions
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1 cup canned, drained and rinsed white kidney beans
- 1/3 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 cup medium salsa
- 1 cup thinly sliced cooked chicken breast
- 1 cup shredded lettuce
- 1/2 cup grated old white cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese
- 3/4 cup diced tomatoes
- 2 Tbsp minced onion
- 1 Tbsp chopped cilantro
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1/2 avocado sliced thinly

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 450 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and place tacos overtop.

2. In small skillet, sauté onions, garlic and chili powder for 3 minutes. Add beans and stock, cover and simmer for 5 minutes. Purée beans in food processor. Add more water if too thick. Set aside.

3. Meanwhile, bake tacos for 5 minutes, just until lightly toasted.

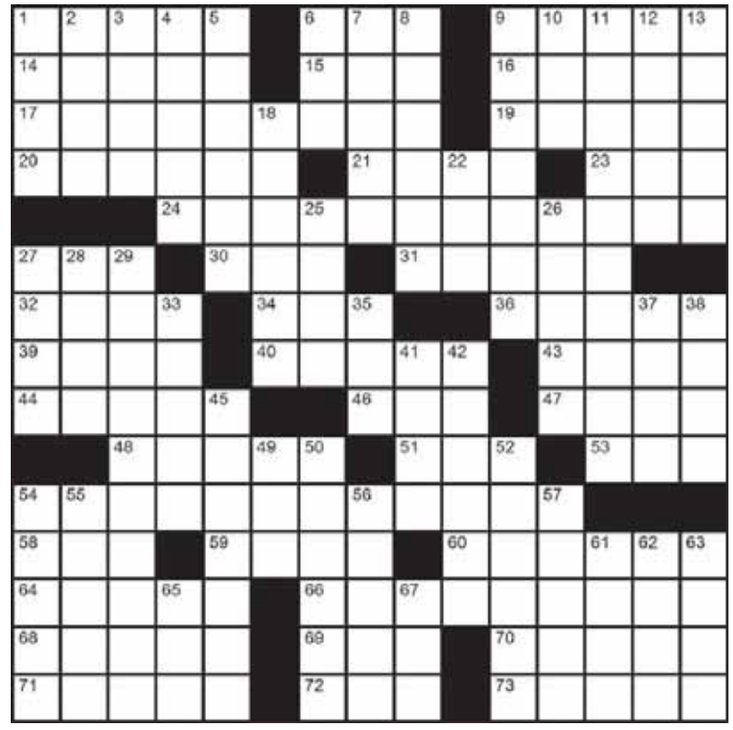
4. Divide bean purée over tacos. Add dollops of salsa. Divide chicken, lettuce and cheese over tacos.

5. In a small bowl, combine tomatoes, minced onion, cilantro and oil. Divide over tacos and add garnish with sliced avocado. Serve immediately.

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Flute, e.g.
6. Understanding utterances
9. Ice cream holders
14. Ten per cent church donation
15. Hound's hoofer
16. French singer Ms. Piaf
17. Shoulder decoration, as on a military uniform
19. Cheese-topped chip
20. "__ __: Fury Road" (2015) starring Charlize Theron
21. Gael, for one
23. Wine aperitif
24. Anna Kendrick's new musical comedy, "__ __ 2" (2015)
27. __ Leppard
30. Soft & __ (Antiperspirant)
31. Hold off
32. Roman love poet
34. Billy Joel's "Just the Way You __"
36. Hotel's main floor area
39. __-Coburg-Gotha (Former royal house)
40. 1811 Jane Austen novel, __ and Sensibility
43. Title lady of Starship's 1986 chart-topper
44. After lunchtime time, e.g.: 2 wds.
46. Mr. Cherry
47. Glance over
48. Wanders
51. Bus driver's path, briefly
53. Brewery container
54. Those who have become sensations on the 'Broadcast Yourself' website: 2 wds.
58. Facing [abbr.]
59. One-of-a-kind
60. Just to be on the safe side...: 2 wds.
64. Bit of "O Canada" in French: "Car ton bras sait porter _'__ / Il sait porter la croix!"
66. Veronica Tennant or Karen Kain
68. Krispy __ Doughnuts
69. Anger
70. 18-wheelers
71. __ Wrap (Kitchen roll)
72. Call for
73. Petulant

DOWN
1. Thingy
2. Palm used for basketry or thatching
3. Dutch city
4. Pound
5. Put down new tiling
6. Be decisive
7. Break free from the egg
8. May __ (Big time in television ratings)
9. Halifax __ Library
10. Harem room
11. "How You Remind Me" band from Hanna, Alberta
12. Strong work __
13. "SCTV" alum Martin
18. Additional things
22. Allow
25. Wax: French
26. Dental care purchase
27. "I can only __ __ much." (I need assistance!)
28. Diana Ross' son married to Ashlee Simpson
29. In-need-of-work real estate listing
33. Bus station
35. Terminate
37. Hillside in Scotland
38. Yin and __
41. Variety
42. Necessitate
45. Canadian contralto legend Ms. Forrester
49. Entrepreneur's deg.
50. Where Belgrade is the capital
52. Mr. Borgnine
54. Inners of eggs
55. Music for #45-Down
56. Department store chain
57. Loose rock at a cliff's base
61. Focuses
62. Dither
63. Simple
65. __ Savahl (Couture brand)
67. Albanian currency

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is one of the best times of the year for getting things done. Even the smallest effort on your part will yield remarkable results over the next three or four days, so go for it!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You must be decisive today. You must draw up a plan and follow it through to completion. Deal firmly with those who get in your way. Be ruthless if you have to — there's a lot at stake.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Wherever you go and whatever you do Lady Luck will smile on you today. But don't use that as an excuse to go places or do things that put you at some sort of risk. You may be lucky but you are not invincible.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The whole world could be against you today and you won't care a bit: in fact you will enjoy being the odd one out. You are looking for a challenge, the kind that no one expects you to win. Watch their faces when you succeed!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Anything is possible and according to the planets there is one thing you want above all else at the moment. Jupiter in your sign endows you with huge self-belief, so success is all but guaranteed.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have to tell someone you like something that you know is going to hurt their feelings. Get it over with quickly. One day they will thank you for being so honest.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Whatever challenges come your way today you will deal with them with ease. This is one of those occasions when you need to be pushed to your limits and beyond. And what a Libra needs a Libra gets.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Try to be a bit more assertive today. Let people in positions of power know that you are not the sort of person they can kick around. You don't have to be rude but you do have to stand up for yourself.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Jupiter in the sympathetic sign of Leo means you will make your own decisions and take whatever risks you think are necessary. You won't doubt for a moment that you are doing the right thing. And you are.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It does not matter that others say something cannot be done — if you want it enough you will find a way to get it. Stop worrying and start looking ahead and planning where you are going to be.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
With Jupiter moving through the partnership area of your chart you need only click your fingers for others to come running. Make the most of it — it won't last.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You will get through so much work today that some people may wonder aloud if you are on some kind of stimulant! You're not, of course, but you are certainly in one of those moods when you feel almost superhuman. Up, up and away!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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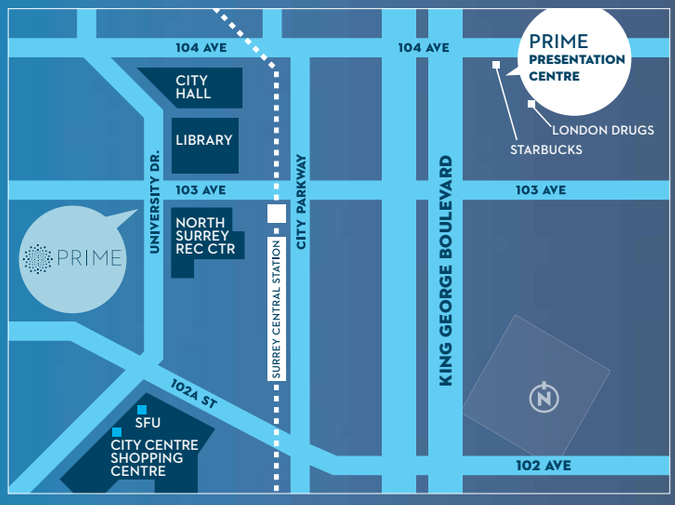

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